ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

ADULT READERS ONLY

ISSUE SIX
$3.50

Associated
Student Bodies

Issue 6

Story by
Lance Rund

Art by
Chris McKinley

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

HEAVY.

Please, read the story first. It's important.

Now that you're back…

We try hard to not be preachy; our story needs to be presented from a "neutral" point of view. No one likes to have a message crammed down their throats, no matter how agreeable that message might be.

There is a point we would like to make, though. Allies and support can sometimes come from unexpected places, especially when you least expect it. There also can be surprises… people not following preconceived notions about whose "side" they are expected to be on. The actions of a notorious few cannot be allowed to define a group. If it is unfair for homophobes to hold up the example of Jeffrey Dahlmer and say "He was gay, he killed, so all gays are closet murderers", then it is equally unfair for the gay population to cite the hate-mongering self-styled "holy men" minority, and generalize that all Christians are looking for an excuse to delight in gaybashing in the name of God.

It just isn't so.

SPECIAL THANKS

We especially want to thank Scott and Genesis Whitmore for their help and support. Their advice on the workings of the clergy was invaluable in making this issue happen.

Congratulations go to Scott for his upcoming ordination – wish him well!

THE FUTURE?

Don't you hate cliffhangers?

Issue seven will have a continuation of the story started in this issue. In the "backup" department, Terrie Smith will be returning, as will Chuck Davies. We'll have a special treat from a special guest, and a shocker (Ricky! How COULD you!). Our covers will be done by the San Diego Dynamic Duo, Terrie Smith and Michelle Light.

NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, THERE WE ARE

We have a web site chock full of good stuff. Come see us at:

http://www.arclight.net/asb

And while you're there, check out a little added bonus:

http://www.arclight.net/asb/issue-six

See you in 90!

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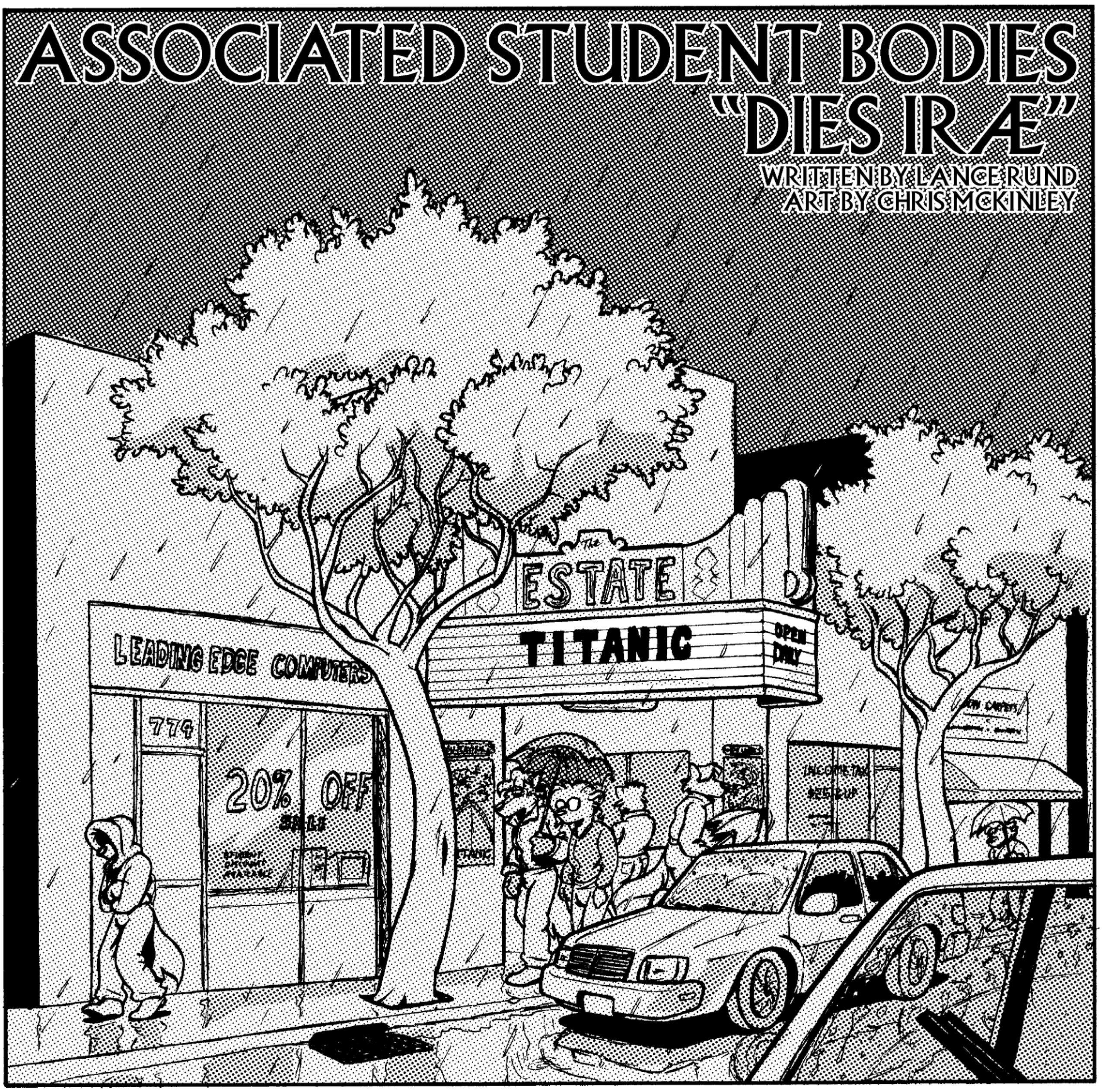
ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES "DIES IRÆ"

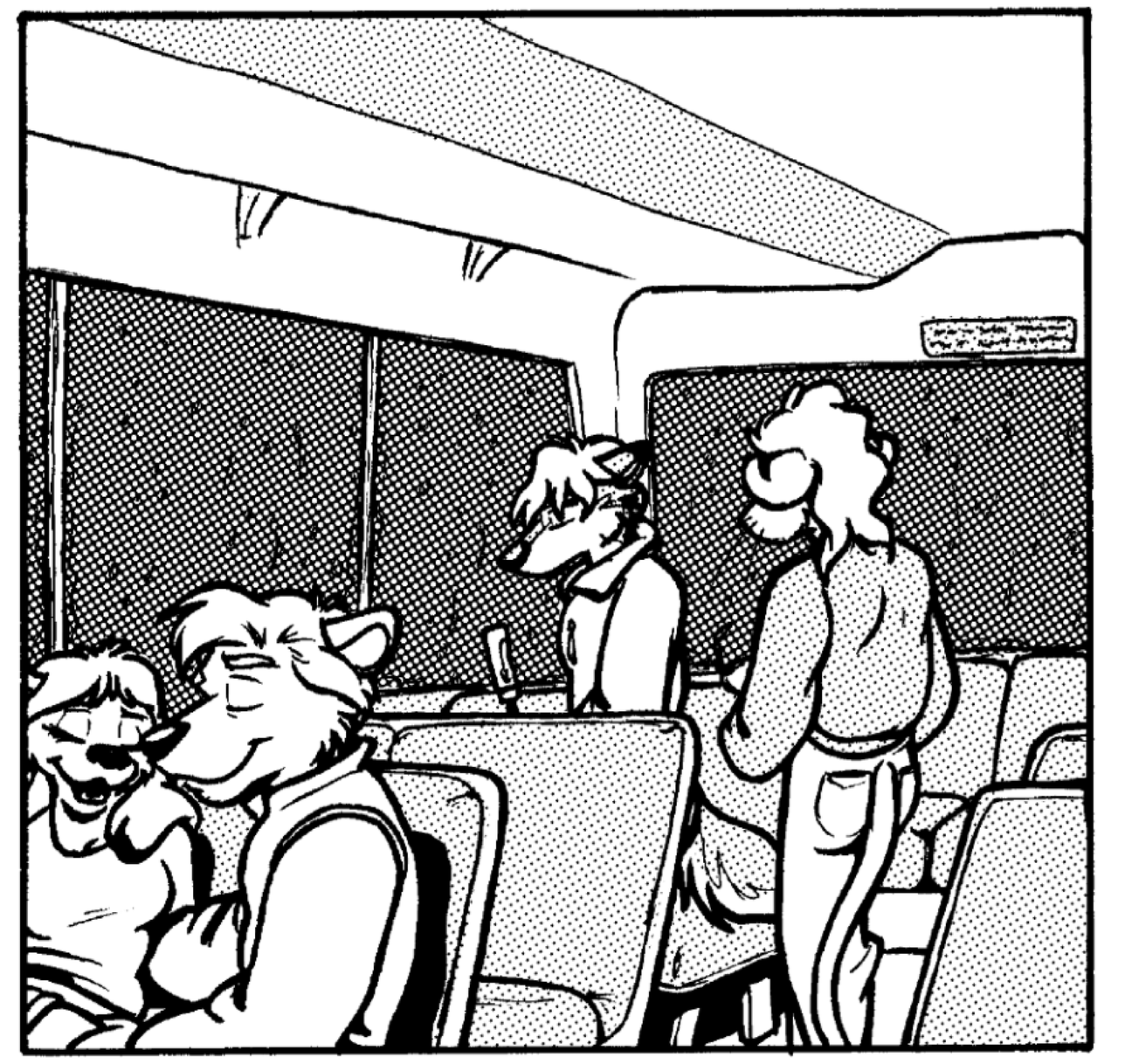
WRITTEN BY LANCE RUND
ART BY CHRIS MCKINLEY

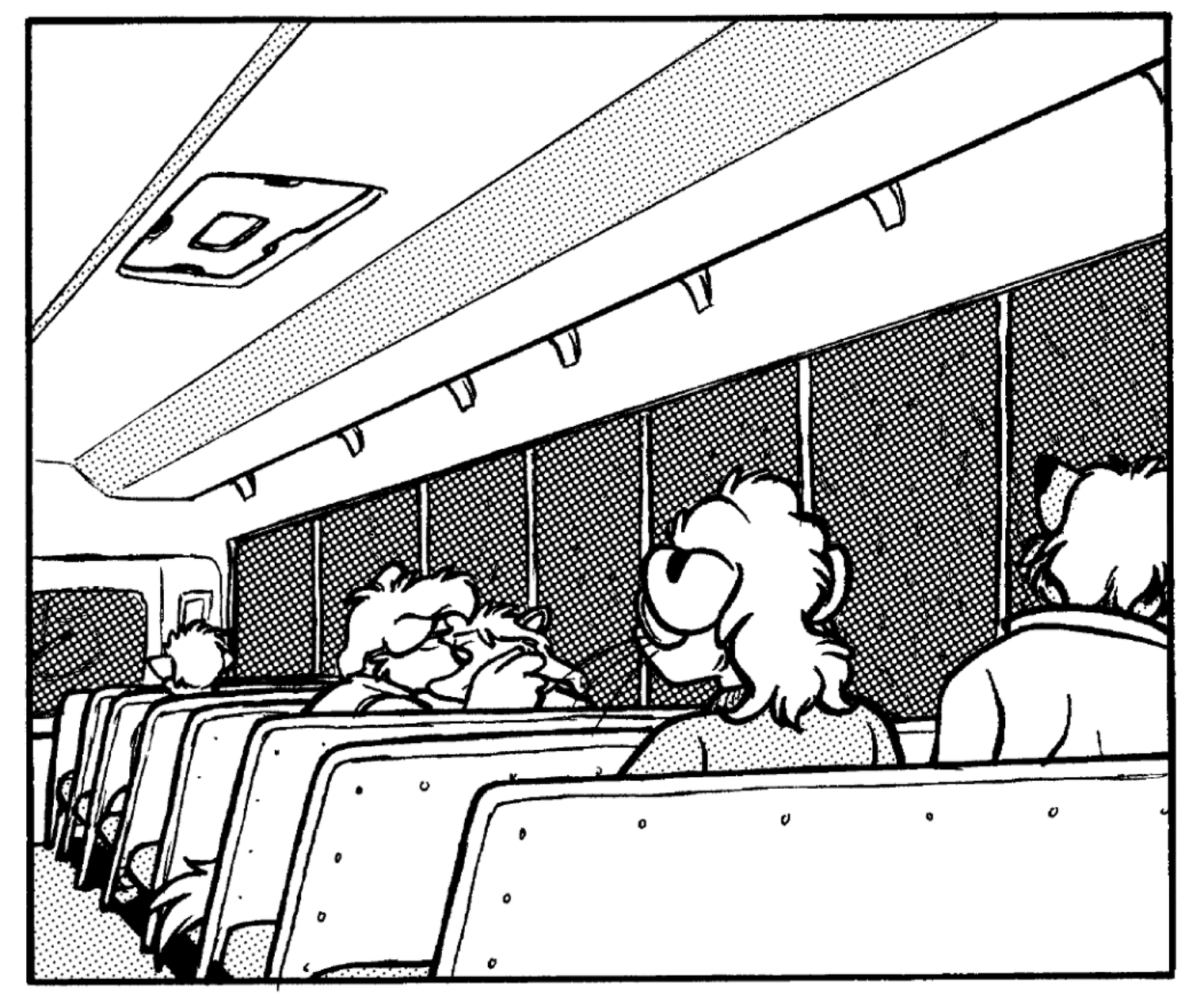


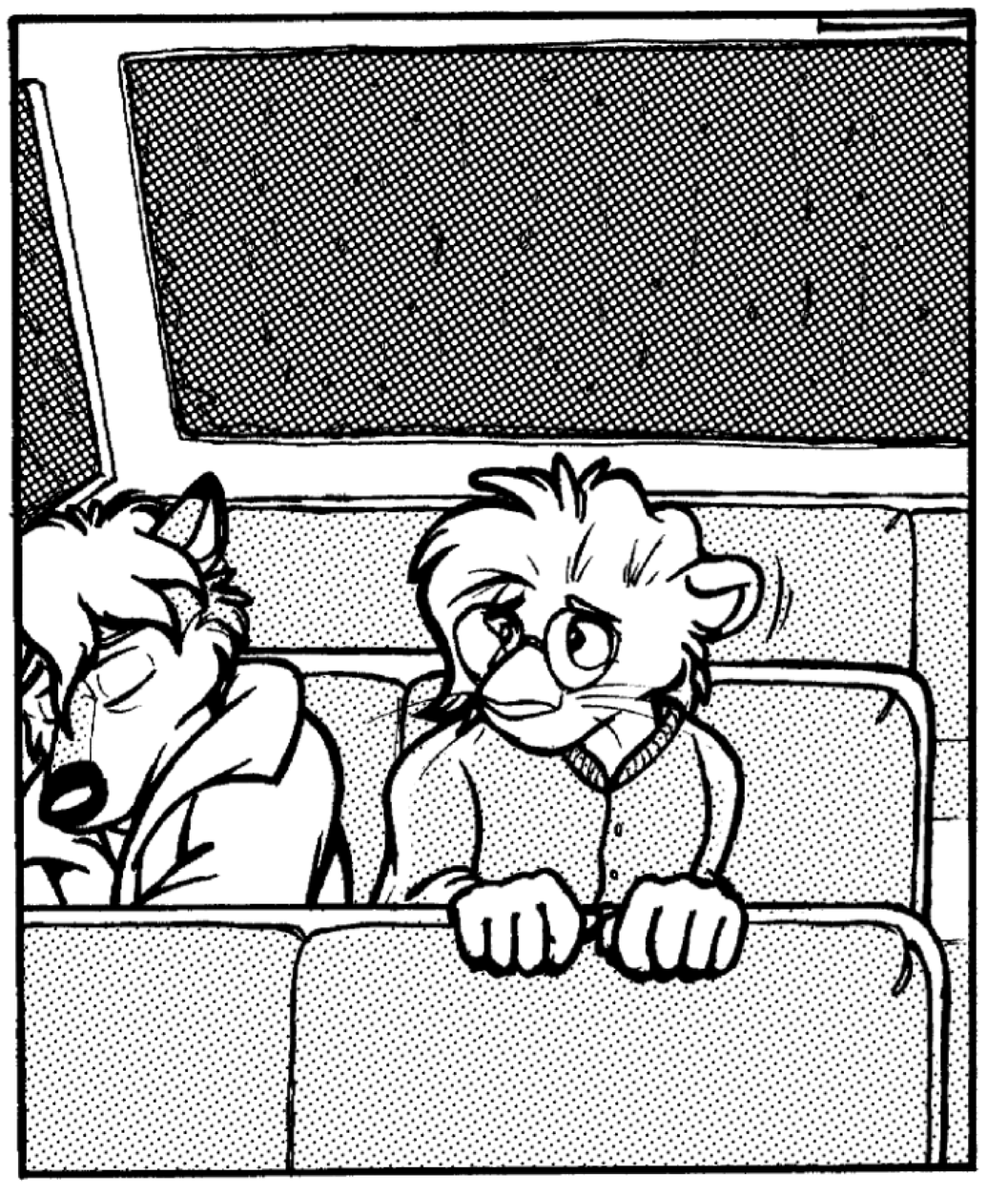
NONSENSE! I JUST HAD SOMETHING IN MY EYE.
SUUUURE. SOFTIE.

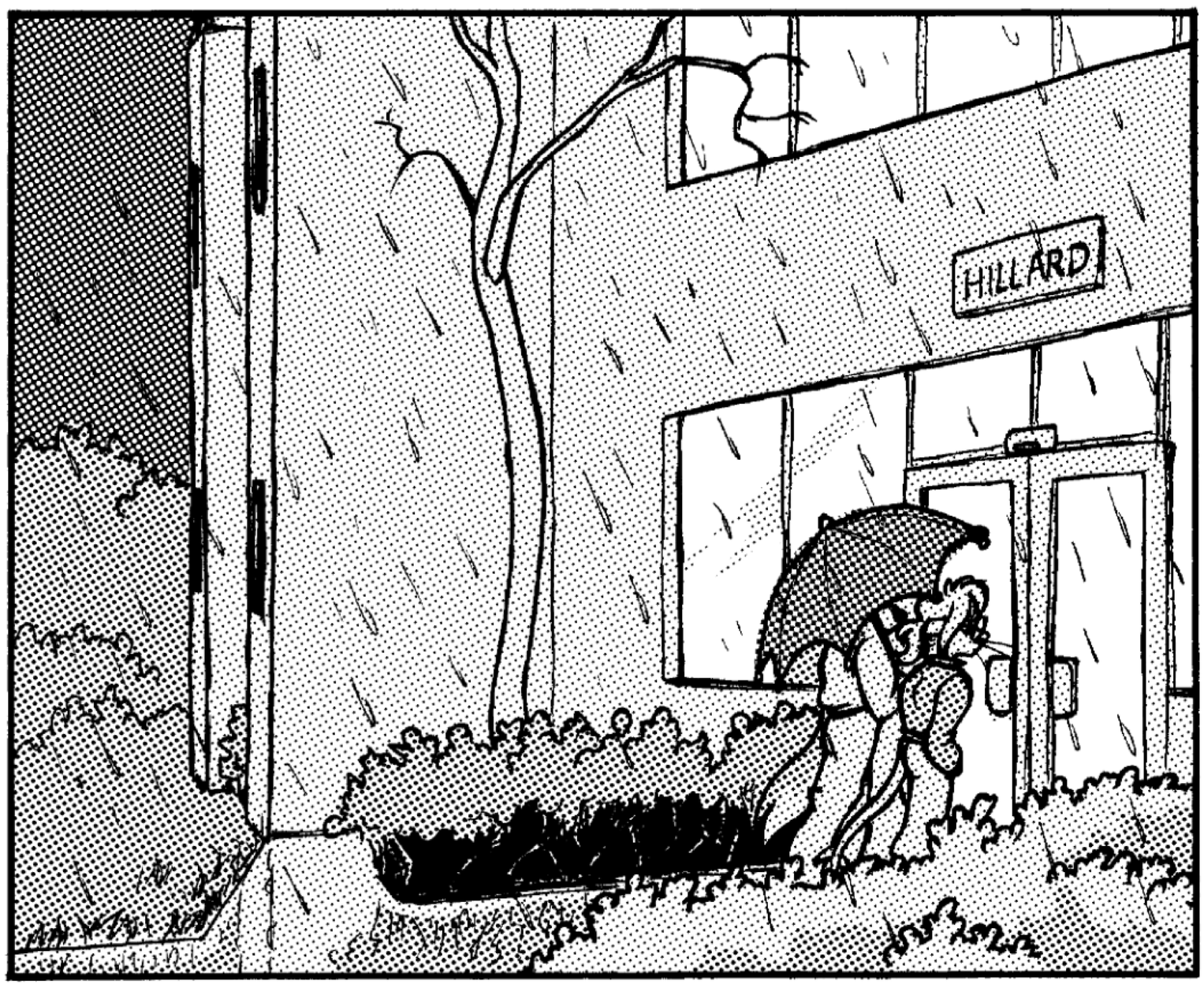
DON'T TELL ANYONE. I HAVE A REPUTATION TO LIVE DOWN TO.
MY LIPS ARE SEALED!

THEY SURE WEREN'T SEALED LAST NIGHT...
HUSH, YOU.








HILLARD

THE MAIL-ORDER BRIDE I GOT FOR YOU SHOULD BE GETTING HERE ANY DAY.
SMART-ASS.

ANYTHING BESIDES BILLS?
LETTER FROM HOME...

THEY'RE GOING TO BE IN THE AREA THIS WEEKEND.

WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
DAD'S GOT A CONSULTING THING IN SAN FRANCISCO.

YOU DON'T LOOK ALL THAT THRILLED...
I SUPPOSE NOT... I JUST HOPE THEY DON'T COME HERE.

I DON'T THINK THEY'D GET ALONG WITH THE GUYS.

SATURDAY MORNING...
HEY, WHAT'S THE HURRY?
I'M LATE! I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET MOM AND DAD OUT FRONT!

I THINK I'LL BUY YOU A WATCH FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY.
DANNY!

WE JUST WANTED TO SEE WHERE YOU'RE LIVING!
AND WHAT TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR BUYS.
UM, MY ROOM'S A MESS, AND...

SO WAS MINE, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE.
THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT!
NOW SHOW US! WE'RE CURIOUS.
OKAY, IF YOU INSIST...

NOW, WHO'S THIS PRETTY YOUNG LADY?
HIS NAME IS STEVEN.

"LADY"?
OH, I'M SORRY, FROM BEHIND YOU LOOKED...
WELL, I THINK HE'S HANDSOME. HELLO, STEVEN!
IT'S OKAY, IT'S A COMPLIMENT EITHER WAY. HI THERE!

YOU ALWAYS WERE A "LEGS" MAN.
THAT WAS... DISTURBING.
YOU'RE SCARING ME, MOM...

ISN'T THAT A GAY PRIDE SYMBOL?
UM, YEAH. TIMMY'S KIND OF VOCAL ABOUT HIS LIFESTYLE.
EQUAL RIGHTS ARE NOT SPECIAL RIGHTS
206
I DON'T APPROVE OF THIS.
IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO APPROVE OF, ALAN.

YOU KNOW MY FEELINGS ON THIS.
THEY HAVE TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES. WE CAN'T DO IT FOR THEM.
COULD WE JUST DROP IT?

MARCUS?

I UM... WANT YOU TO MEET MY PARENTS. MOM, DAD, THIS IS MARCUS PAXTEN. HE'S MY ROOMIE.
I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU BOTH.

YOU'RE AN UPPER CLASSMAN, RIGHT?
YES, MRS. KING. I'M A SENIOR.
I HOPE DANIEL ISN'T BEING A BOTHER. I REMEMBER MY COLLEGE DAYS... FRESHMEN ARE USUALLY SO BOISTEROUS.

OH, DANIEL'S BEEN NO TROUBLE AT ALL. YOU HAVE A FINE SON.
AND MARCUS IS A GREAT ROOMMATE. HE HELPS WITH MY HOMEWORK AND STUFF...
ISN'T THAT NICE OF YOU!

DANIEL APPARENTLY DOESN'T WANT TO OFFEND MY SENSIBILITIES, BUT I NEED TO KNOW. THERE SEEMS TO BE QUITE A FEW HOMOSEXUALS HERE. THEY HAVEN'T BEEN BOTHERING DANIEL, HAVE THEY?
DAD, THAT'S RUDE!

THAT DOG IN THE LOUNGE, FOR INSTANCE...
--IS STRAIGHT. IN FACT, HE'S THE ONLY STRAIGHT ONE HERE. PLEASE DON'T BE SO JUDGMENTAL.

THE ONLY ONE? INCLUDING YOU?
ALAN!
NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS, BUT YES. INCLUDING ME.

SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE FRIENDS.
OH NO...
IT ISN'T GOING TO MATTER.

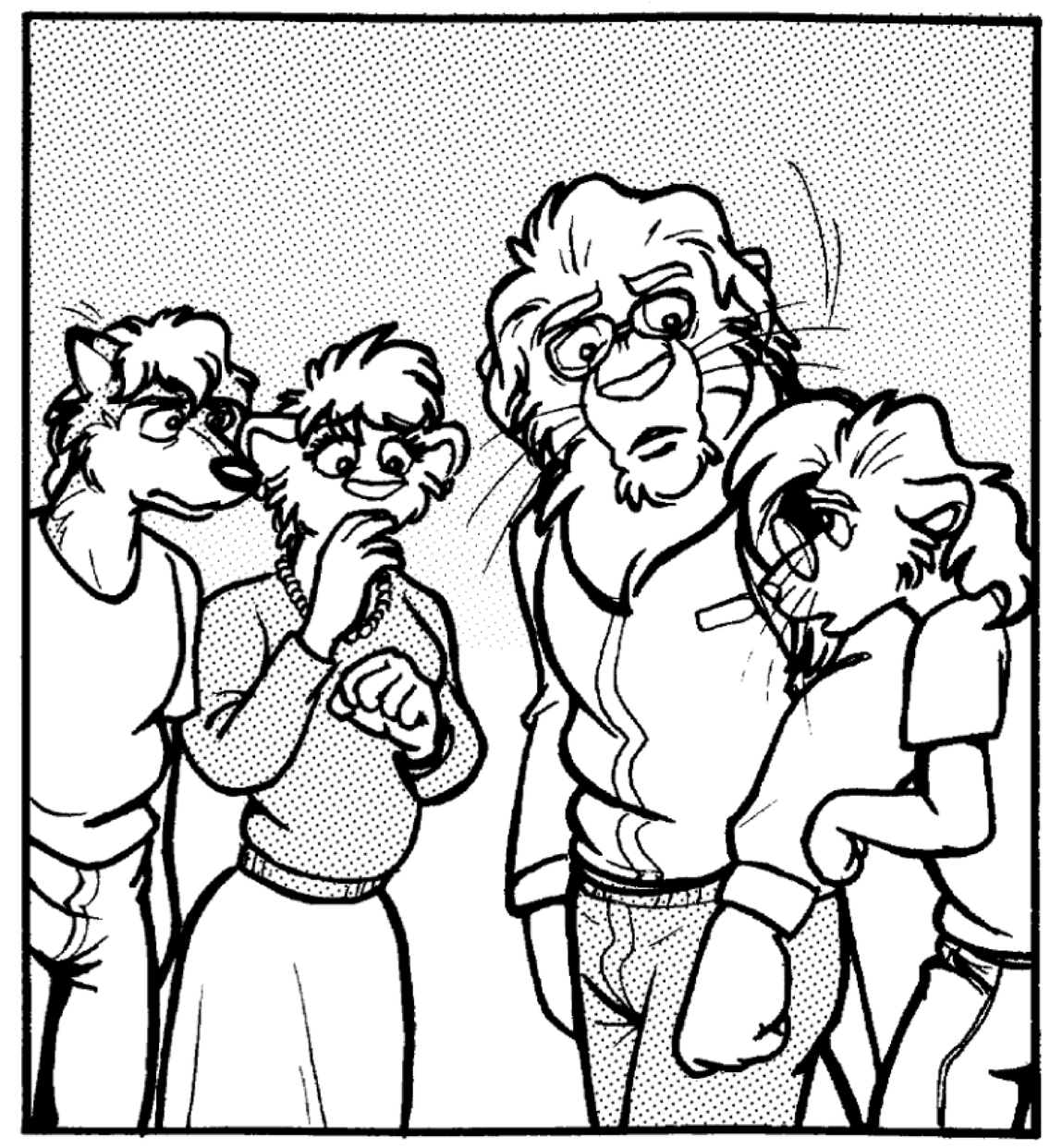
I WON'T HAVE MY SON LIVING AMONG SODOMITES.
DAD, IT'S NOT--
WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU INTO ANOTHER DORM, RIGHT AWAY.

NOW JUST A MINUTE, YOU CAN'T JUST--
STAY OUT OF THIS. IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.

LIKE HELL IT DOESN'T.

DAD... I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT...
WHAT?

MOM... DAD... I'M GAY. AND MARCUS IS MY LOVER.



YOU DID THIS! YOU CORRUPTED MY SON FOR YOUR OWN SICK PLEASURE!
DAD, NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! IT WAS MY DECISION!

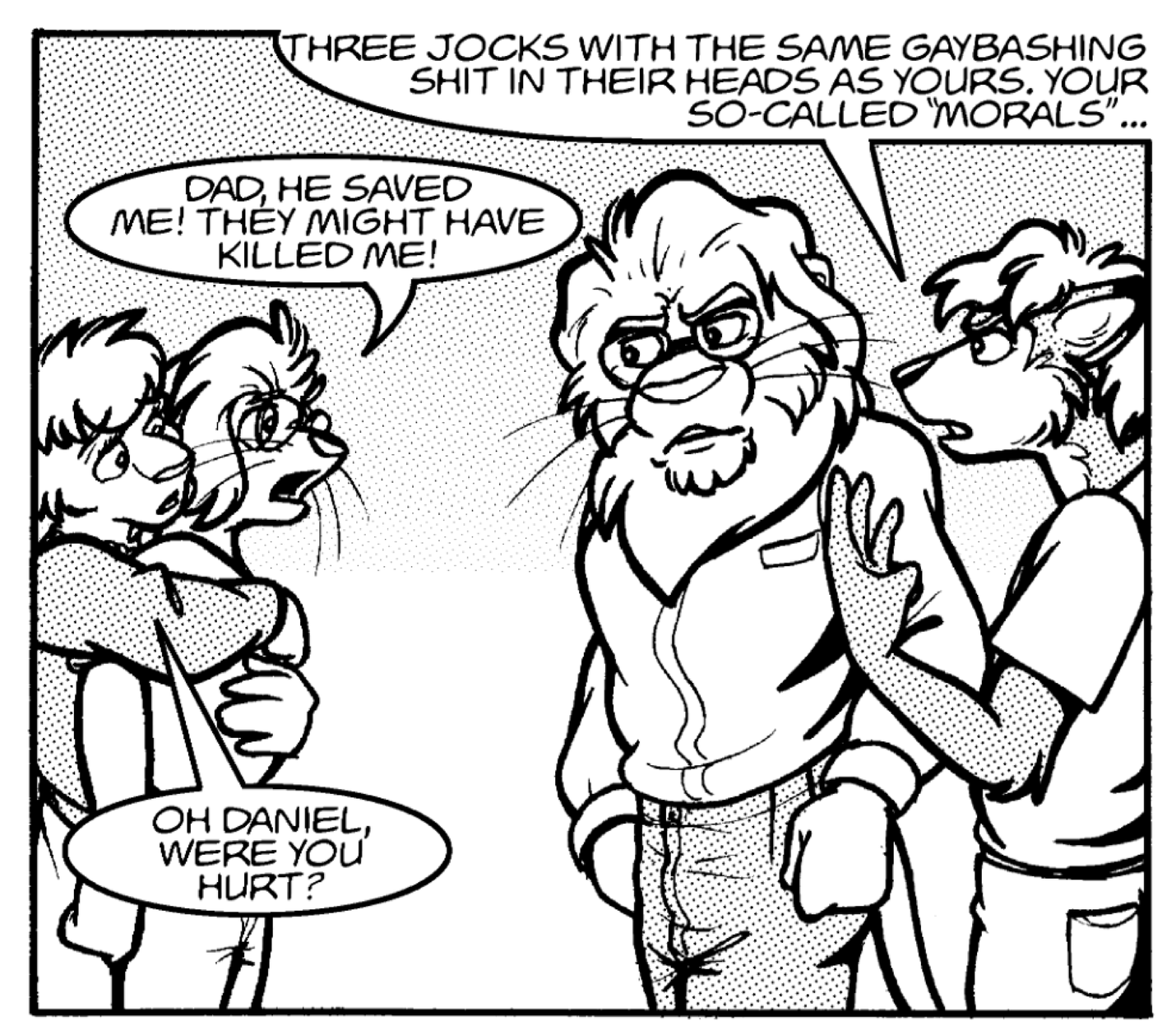
GIVE YOUR SON SOME CREDIT, MR. KING.
I DIDN'T BRING MY SON UP TO CHOOSE THIS!
I WAS LONELY, I JUST WANTED--

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, YOU DIDN'T BRING UP YOUR SON AT ALL.
I WILL NOT BE SPOKEN TO LIKE THIS!

PLEASE! LISTEN, I--
YOUR SON IS A KIND, GENTLE, LOVING PERSON. NO THANKS TO YOU. HE'S TOLD ME HOW YOU WERE NEVER THERE FOR HIM!

DANIEL WAS BROUGHT UP TO BE HONEST AND MORAL. DON'T TELL ME HOW TO RAISE MY SON!
HE'S CERTAINLY NOT AN ARROGANT, BIGOTED BASTARD. NO, YOU CAN'T HAVE RAISED HIM.

AND WHERE THE HELL WERE YOUR MORALS WHEN DANIEL WAS BEING ATTACKED?
ATTACKED..?


THREE JOCKS WITH THE SAME GAYBASHING SHIT IN THEIR HEADS AS YOURS. YOUR SO-CALLED "MORALS"...
DAD, HE SAVED ME! THEY MIGHT HAVE KILLED ME!
OH DANIEL, WERE YOU HURT?

IF YOU'D STAYED OUT OF THIS PERVERSION, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A TARGET!
AND WOMEN DON'T GET RAPED UNLESS THEY REALLY WANTED IT. YEAH, RIGHT...

YOU SMART-ASSED CHILD-MOLESTER... DON'T YOU DARE PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH! I'VE BROKEN FAR BETTER MEN THAN YOU!

BRING IT ON, OLD MAN. TIME TO SEND YOU BACK TO HELL.
ALAN! NO!

THAT'S ENOUGH!

NO ONE HITS MY DAD! NO ONE!
I DON'T NEED--

YOU SHUT THE FUCK UP!

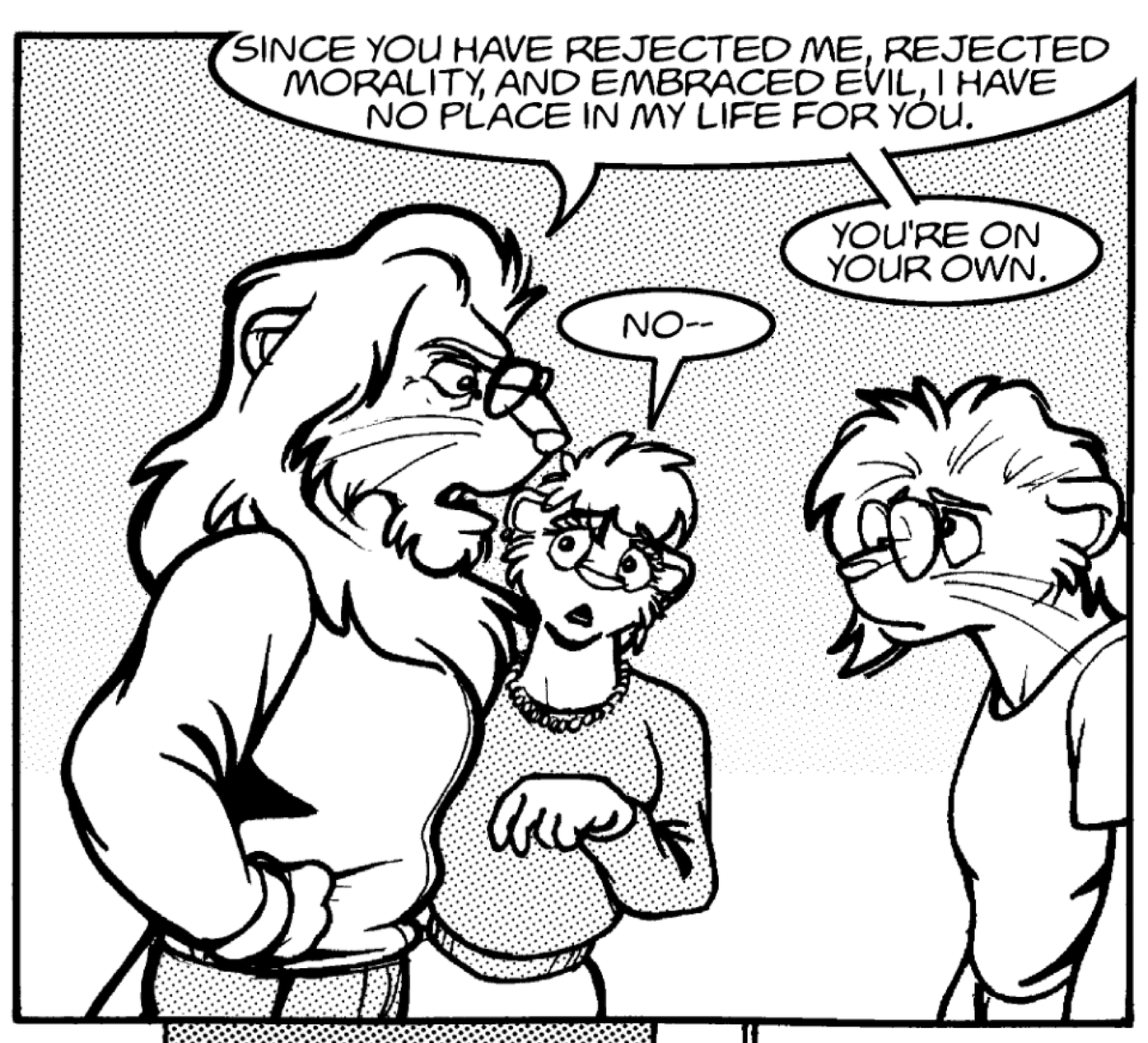
I'VE HAD IT WITH YOUR LECTURES, YOU IGNORING ME, AND YOU TREATING ME LIKE AN IDIOT!

YOU NEVER ASKED ME WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE. NEVER. IT'S ALWAYS WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE!
I JUST WANT--
I SAID, SHUT UP!

NOBODY DECIDES WHAT'S BEST FOR ME ANY MORE BUT ME! IT'S MY LIFE, AND I'LL LOVE WHO I WANT, HOW I WANT!

NOW GET OUT, OR I'LL HAVE SECURITY THROW YOU OUT!

SO BE IT.


SINCE YOU HAVE REJECTED ME, REJECTED MORALITY, AND EMBRACED EVIL, I HAVE NO PLACE IN MY LIFE FOR YOU.
NO--
YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

PLEASE, ALAN, DON'T DO THIS!
COME ON, WE'RE LEAVING. DANIEL DOESN'T WANT US, AND I DON'T WANT HIM.

I'M SORRY, I...
YOU TWO ARE A LOT ALIKE, YOU KNOW THAT?

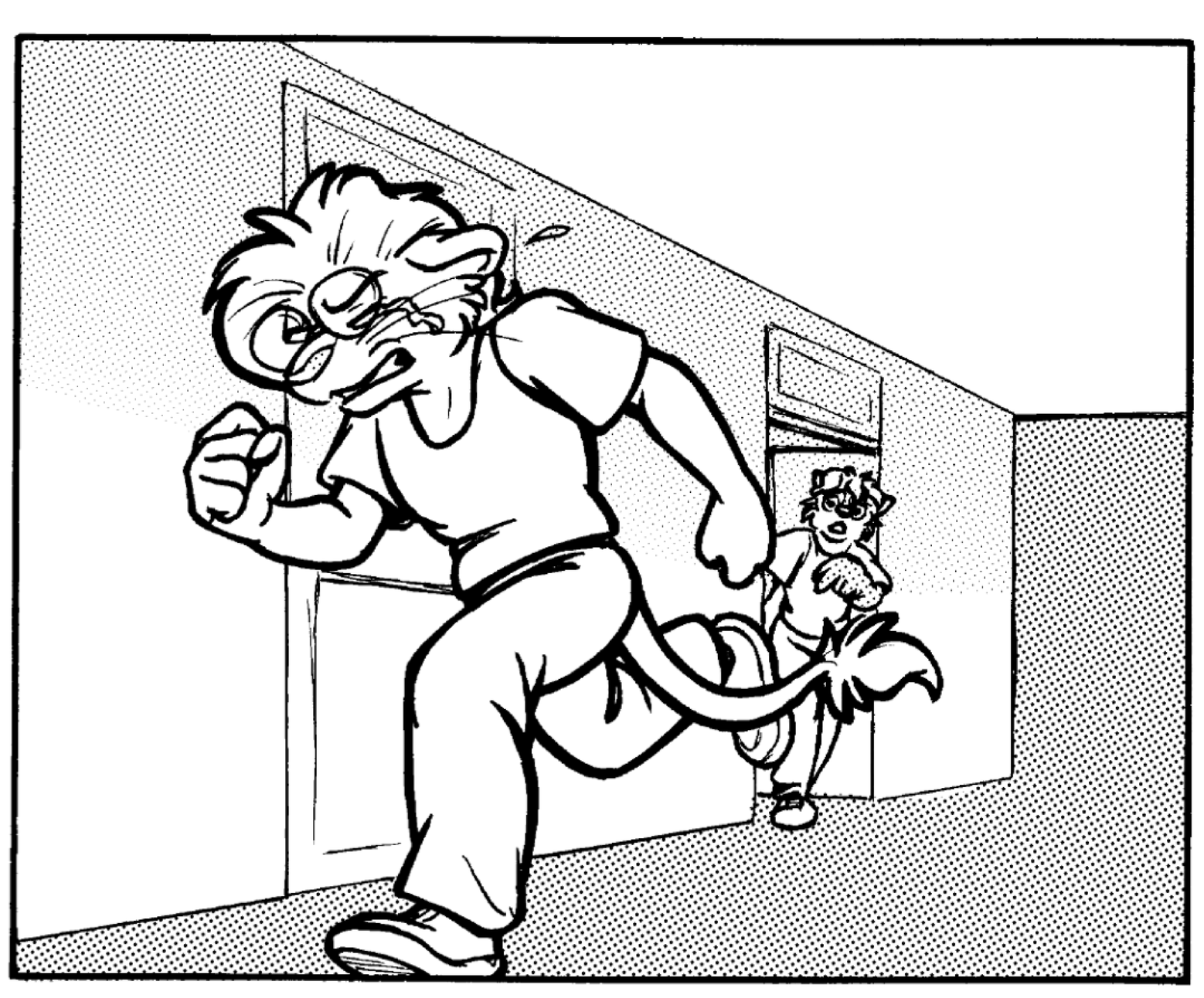
DECIDING WHAT'S BEST FOR ME, SPEAKING FOR ME...
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED!
OH YES IT IS!

YOU WERE SO BUSY TALKING YOURSELF UP, GETTING READY TO ATTACK HIM, YOU WOULDN'T LET ME GET IN A SINGLE WORD!
BUT--
NO! NO "BUT"!

I SAW YOU! IT WASN'T ABOUT ME, IT WAS ABOUT YOU AGAINST HIM!

NO ONE'S GONNA FIGHT OVER ME EVER AGAIN!

DANIEL, PLEASE...
DON'T TOUCH ME!



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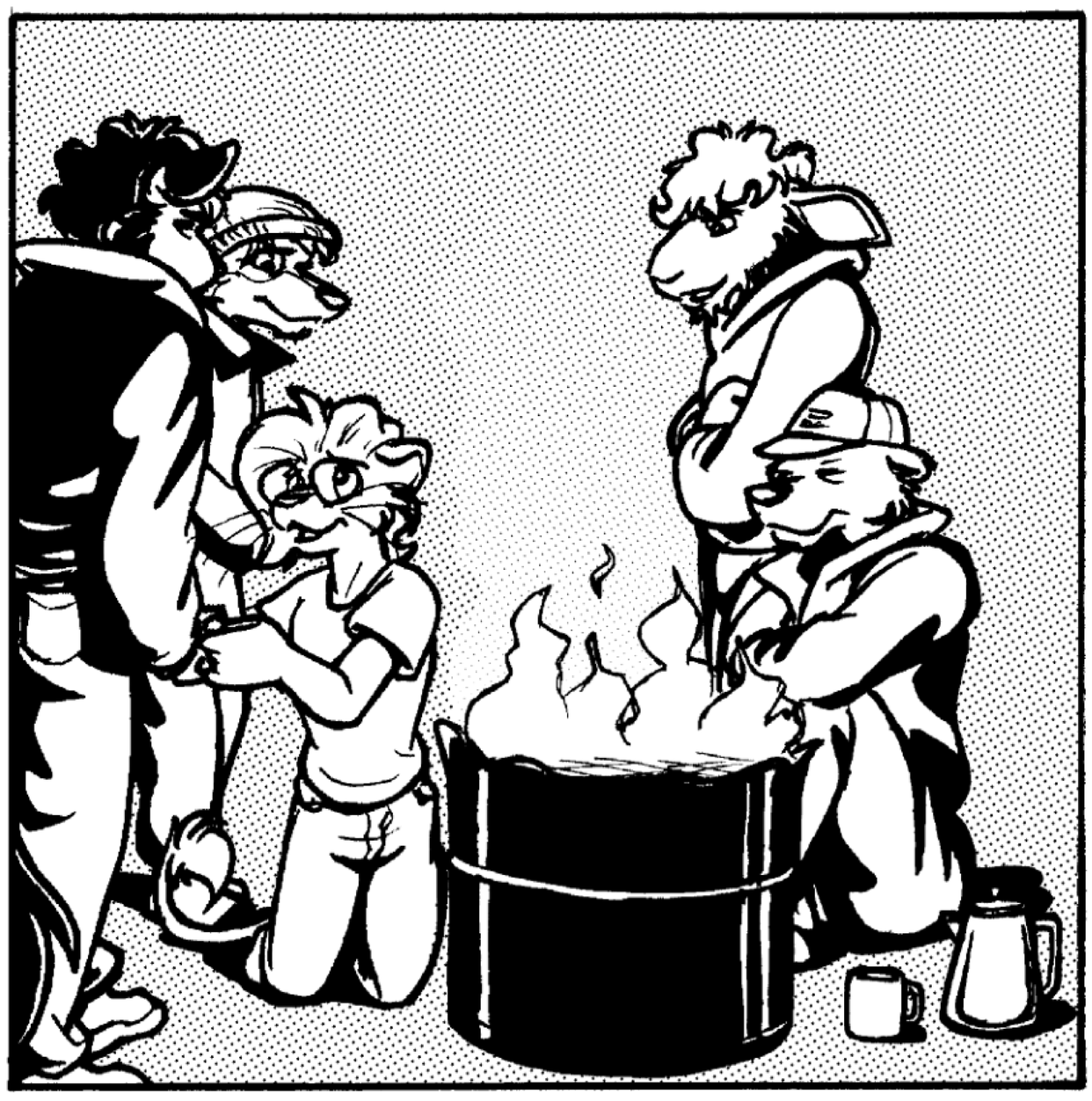
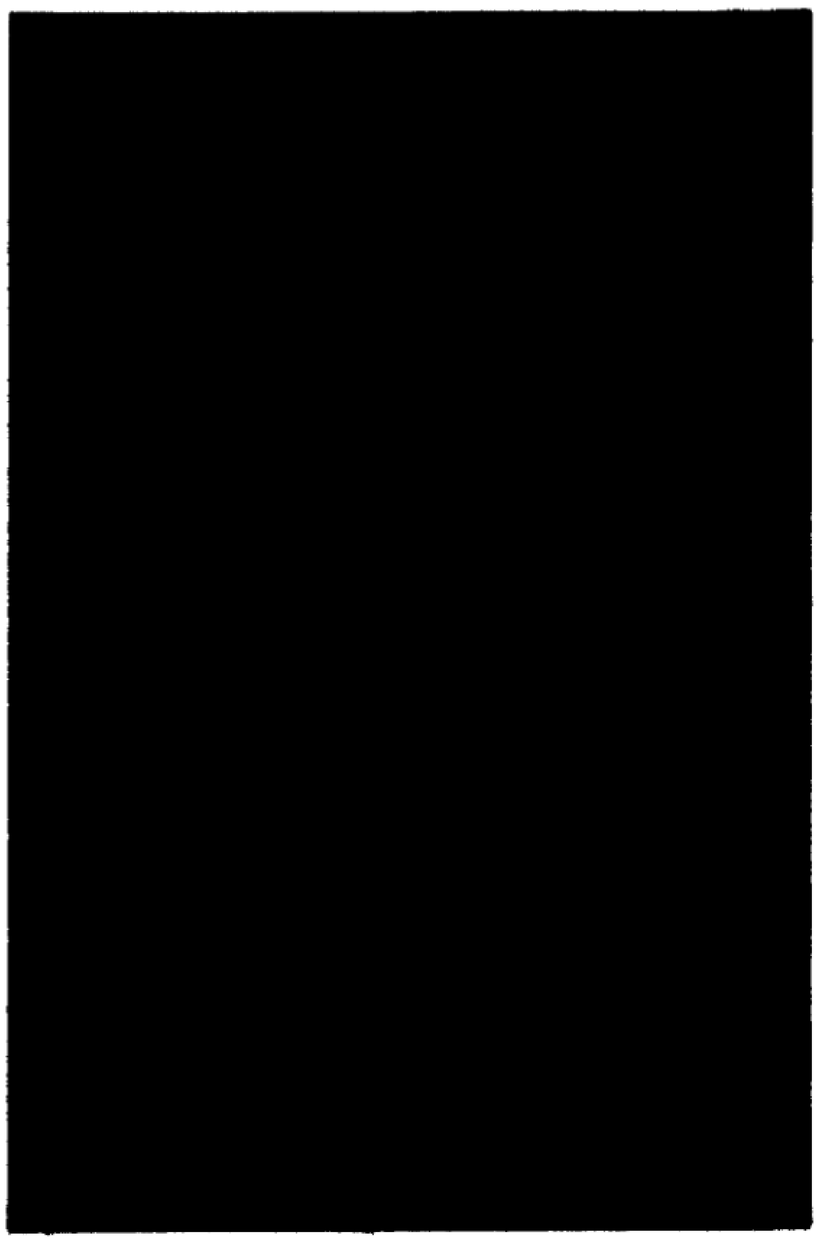
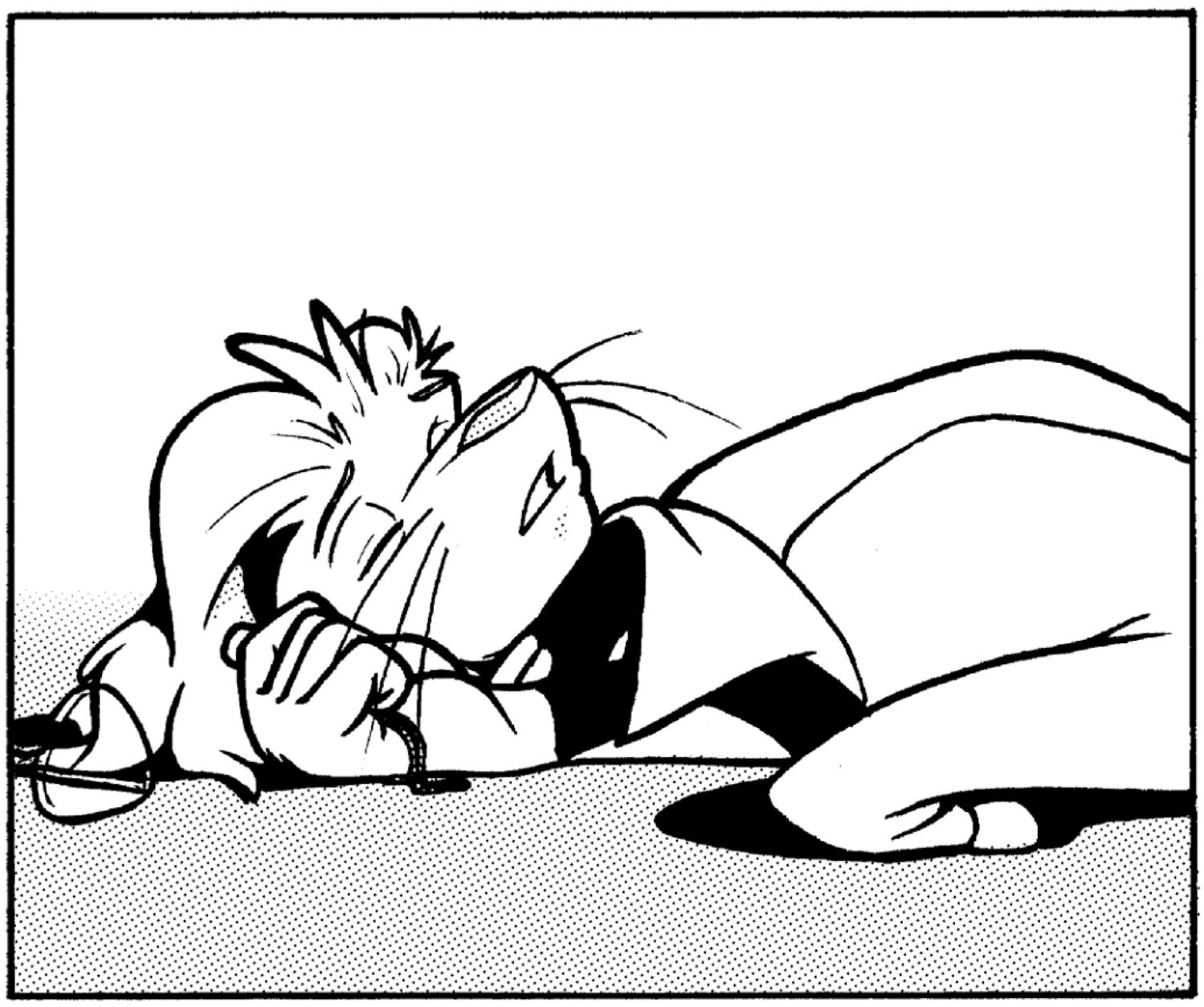
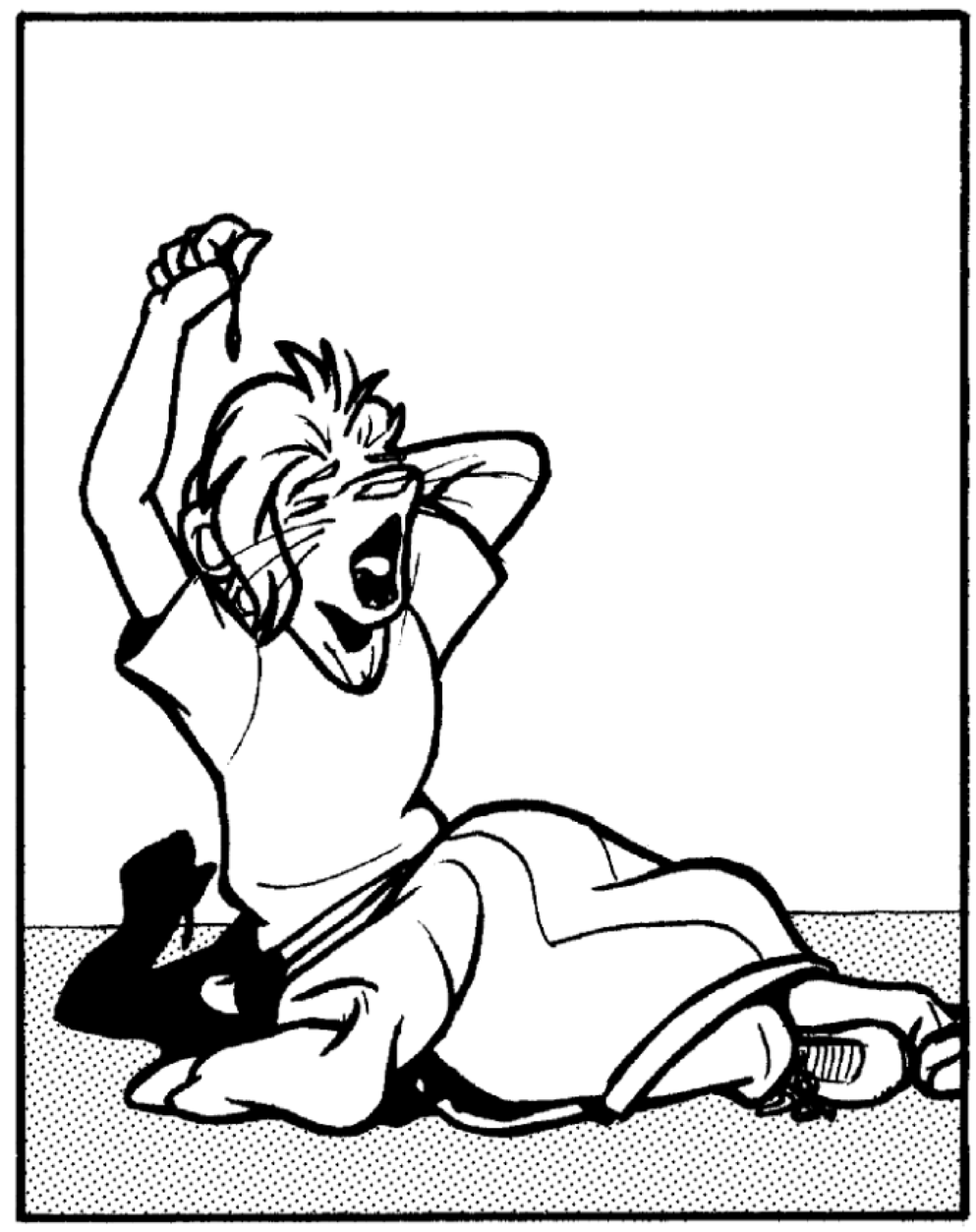
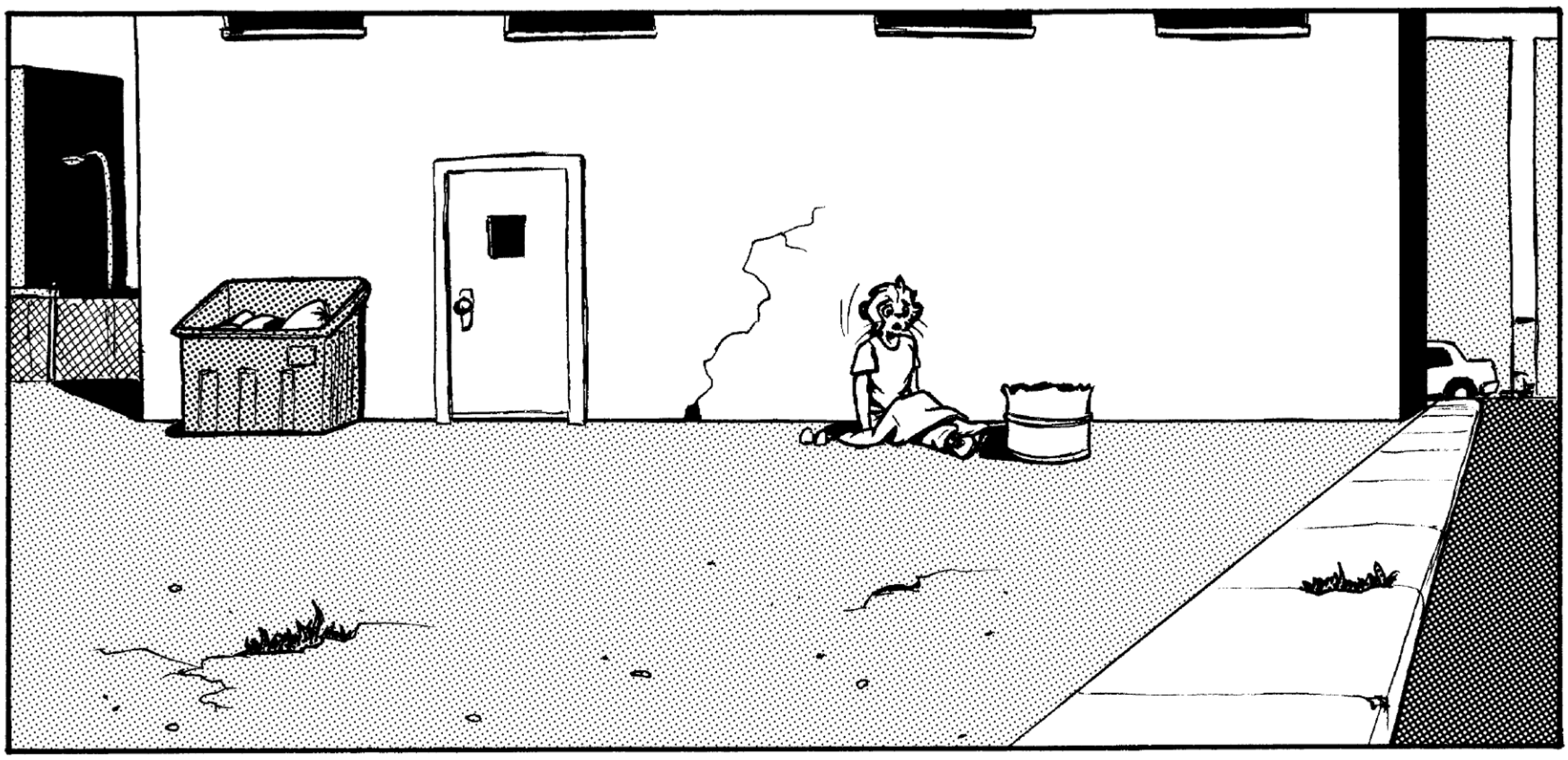
SED

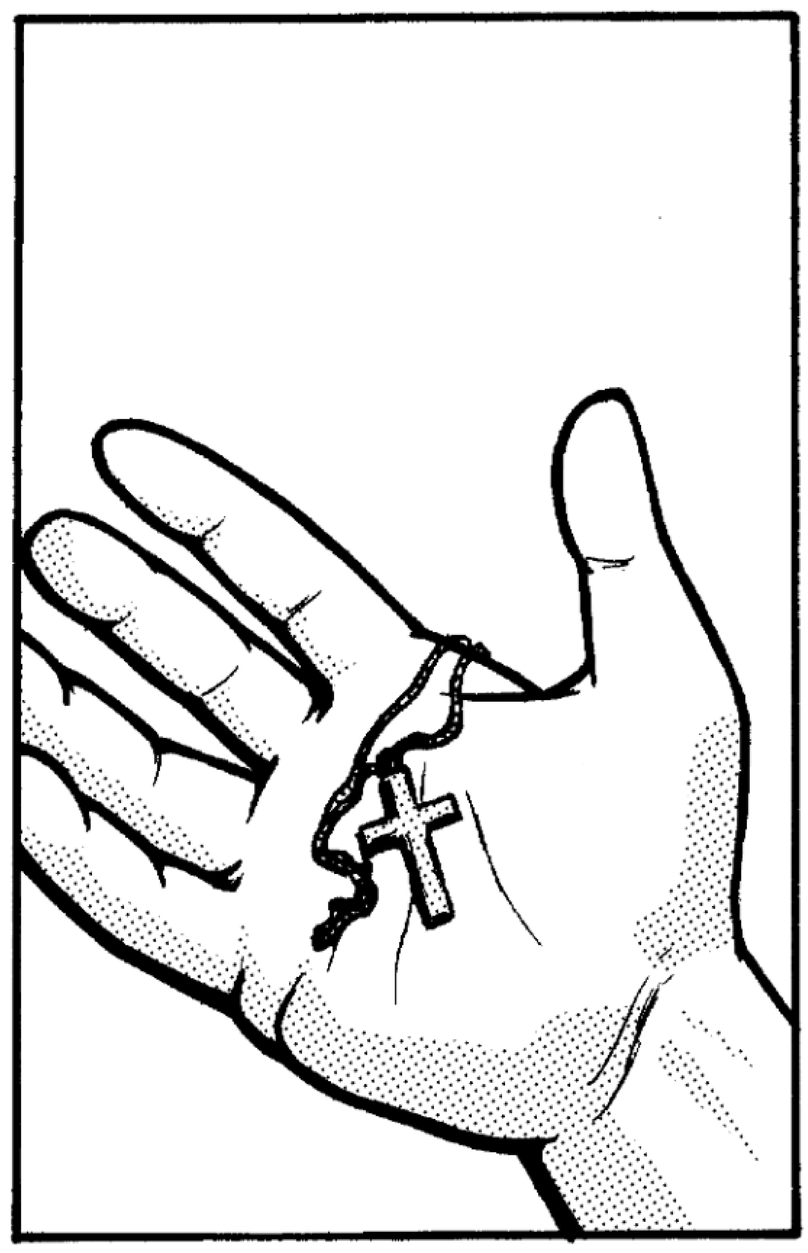


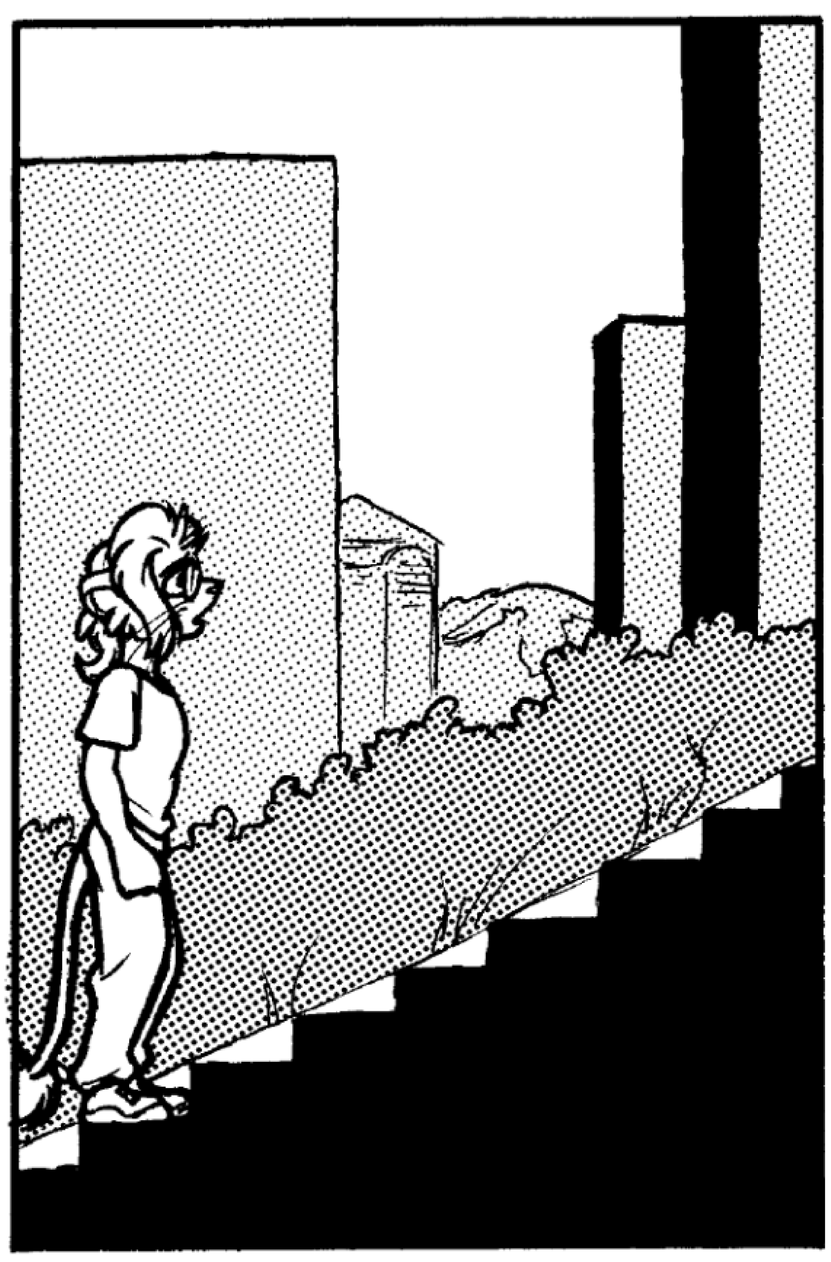


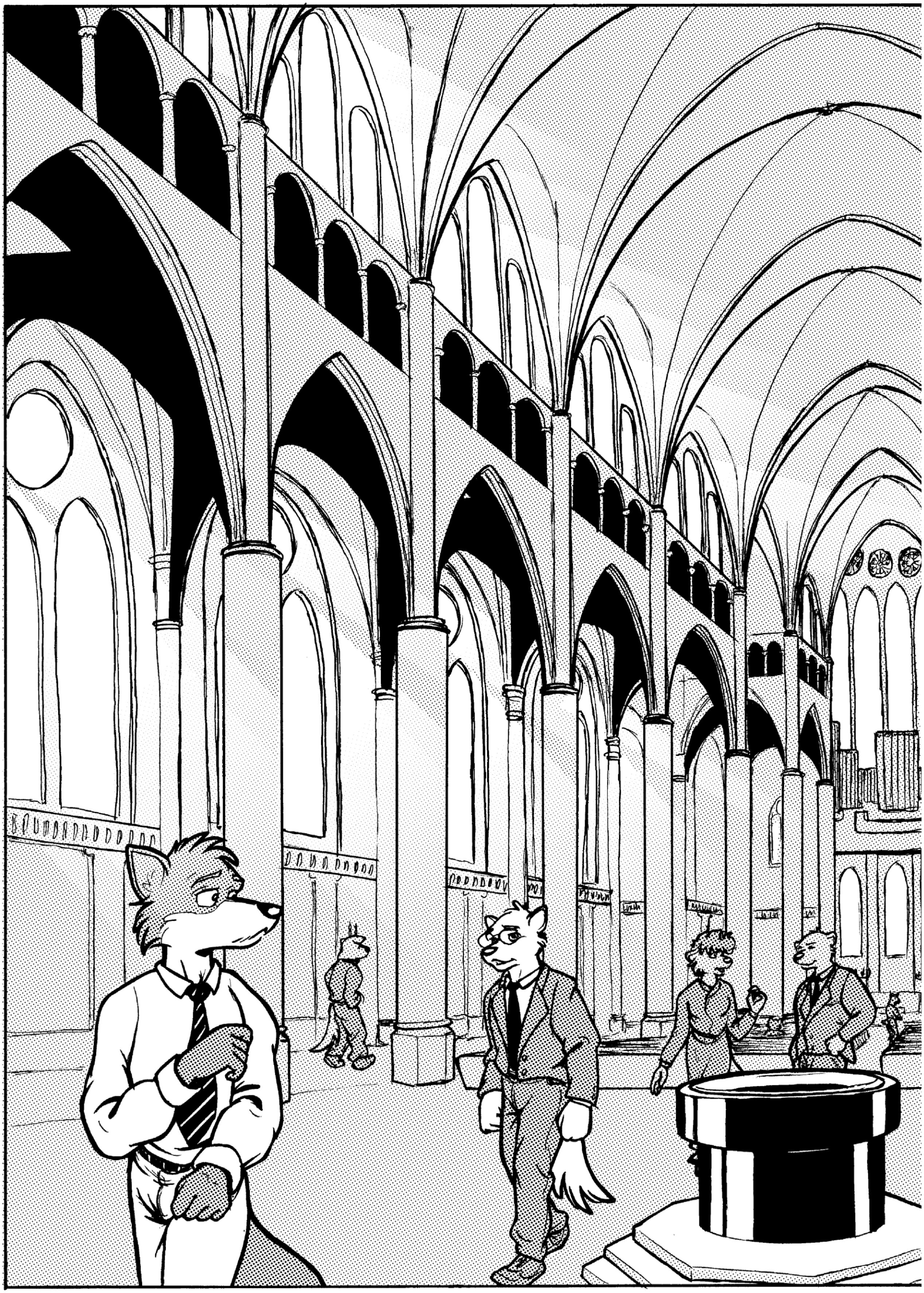


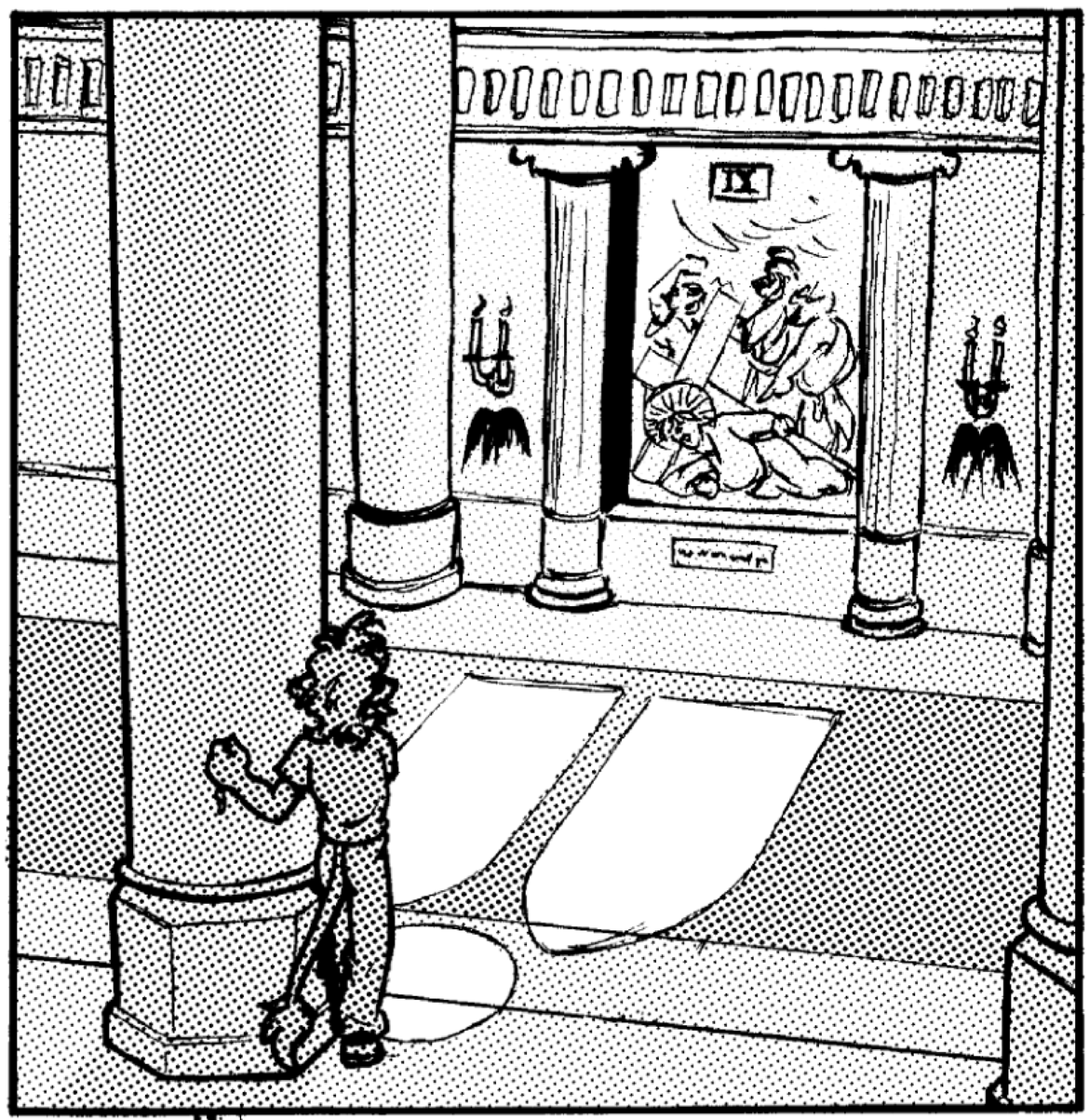


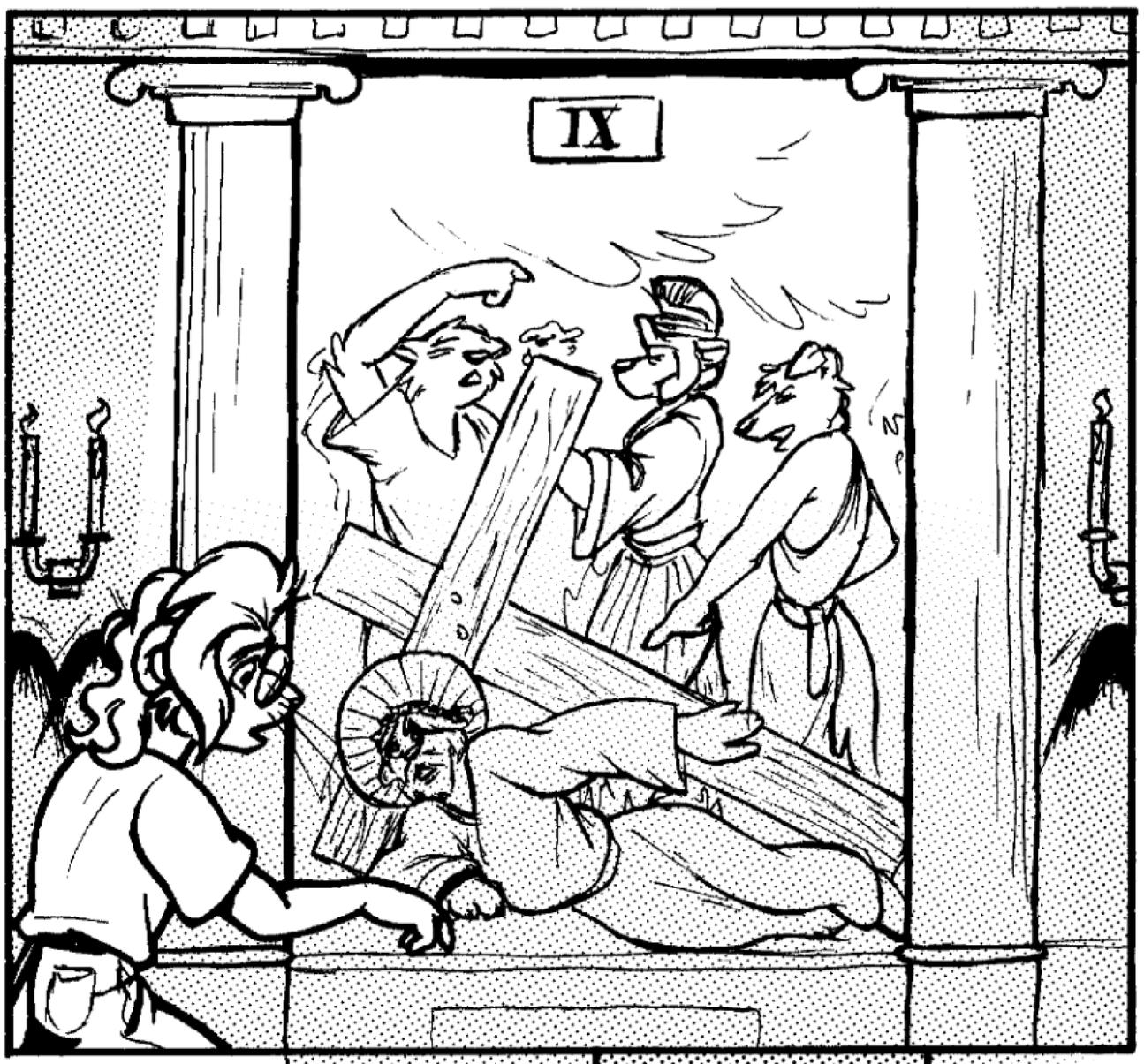










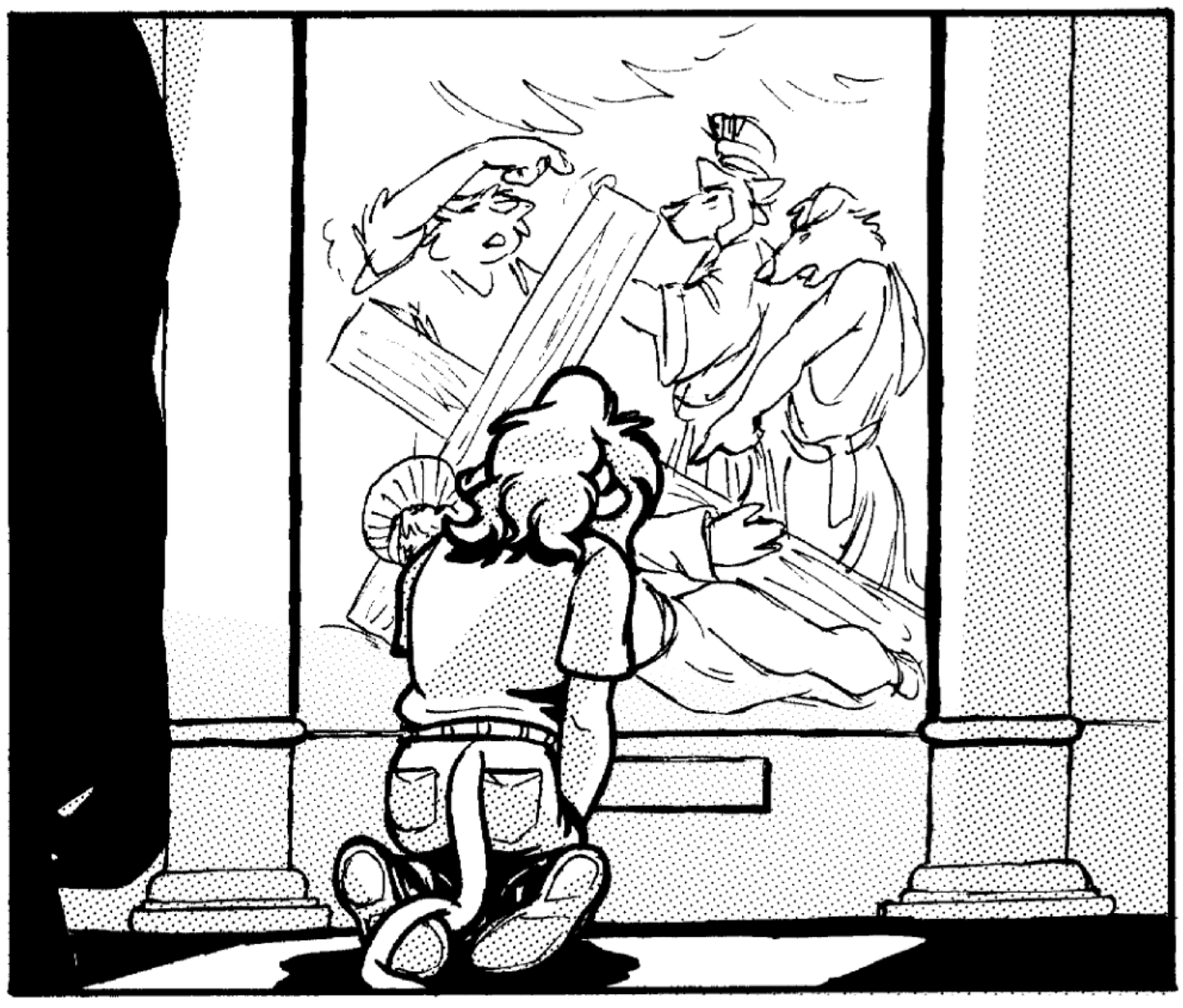


EPISCOPALIAN BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, PAGE 596
THE NINTH STATION OF THE CROSS --
JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME

...AMEN...

SNIFF

...HELP?



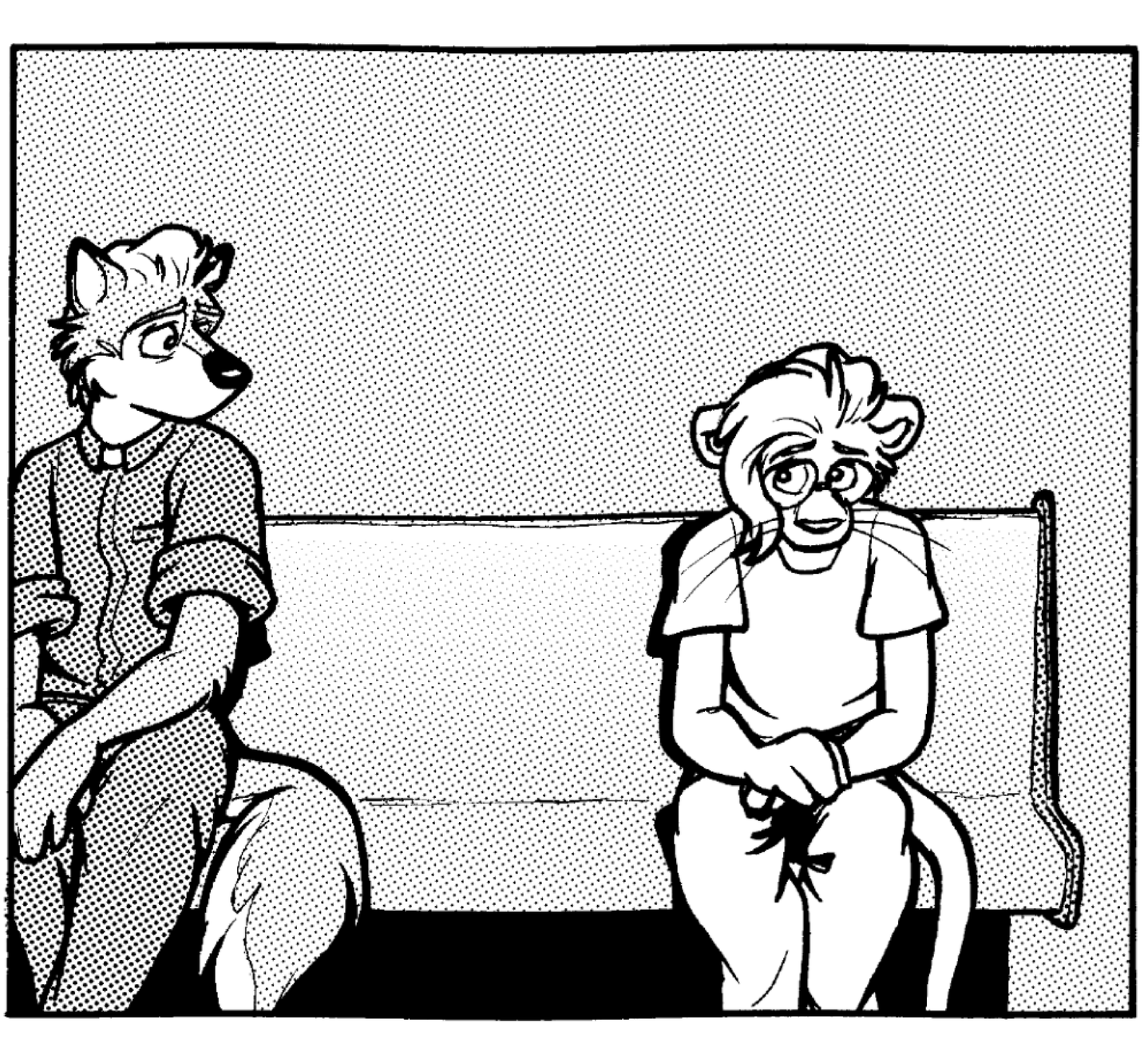
EXCUSE ME..?

NO--
EASY THERE, NOBODY'S GOING TO HURT YOU.

I, I'M SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE.

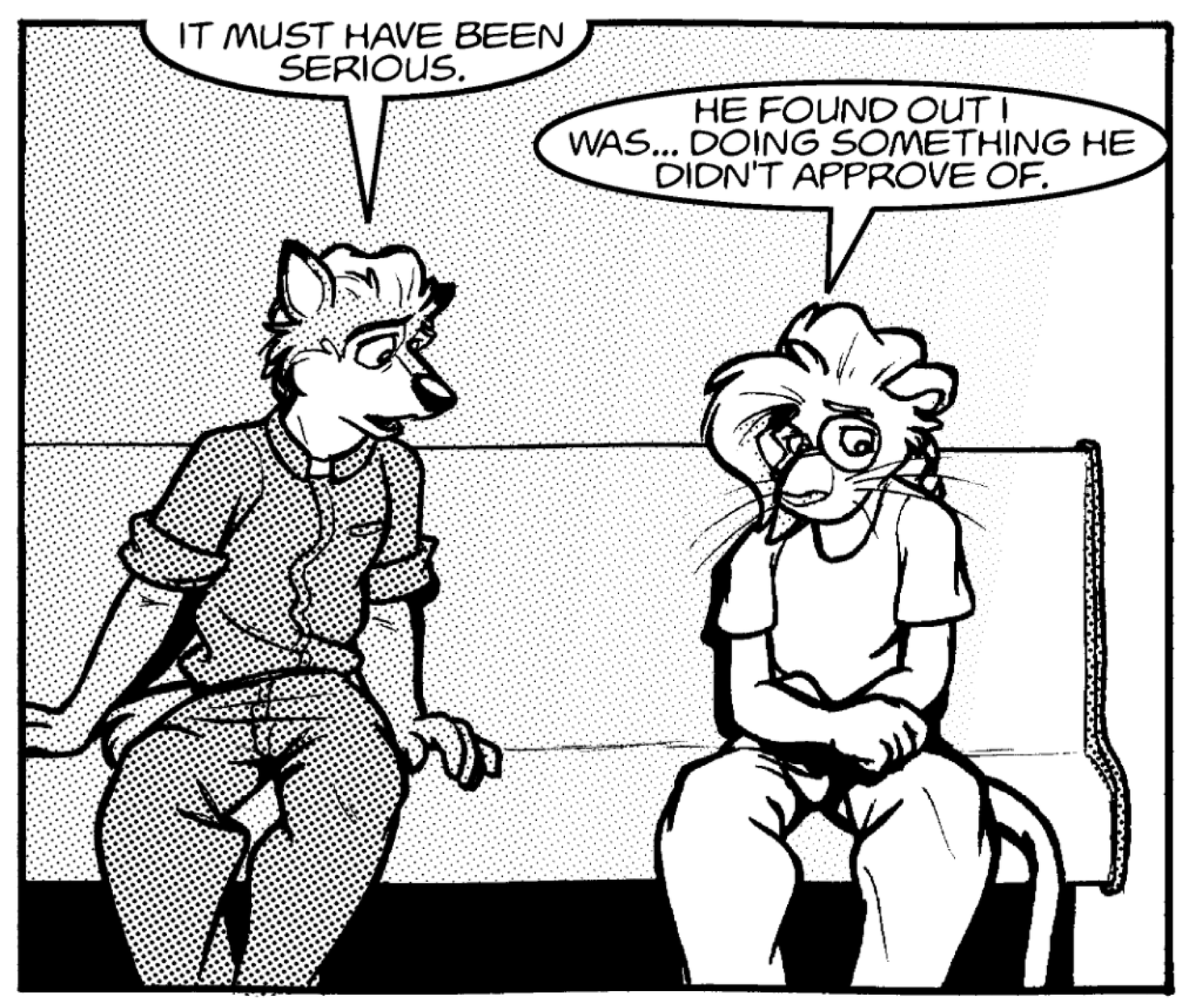
I'LL GO AWAY NOW. I DIDN'T MEAN TO BOTHER--
NO ONE WANTS YOU TO LEAVE.

SIT WITH ME?



WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG?

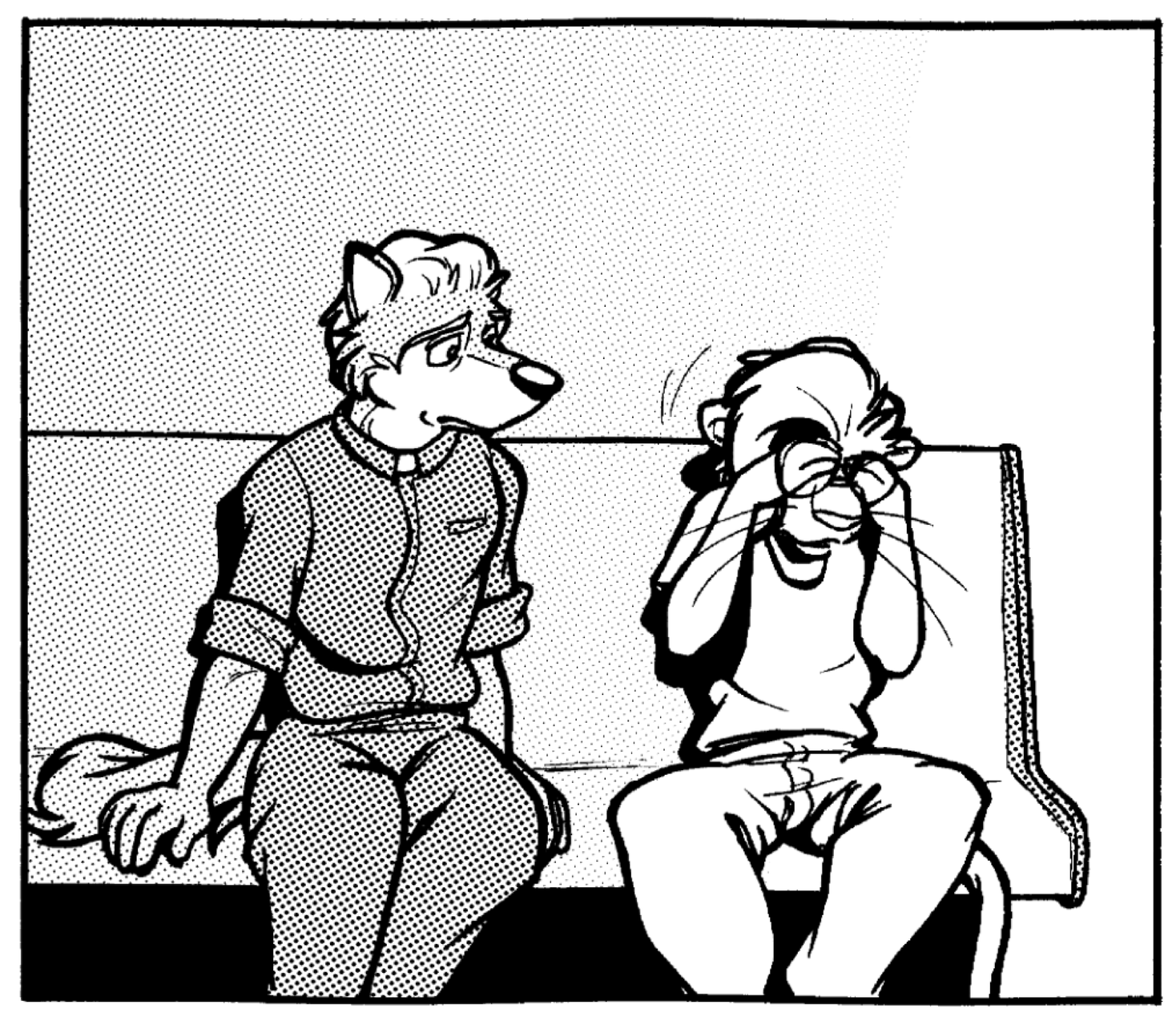
I... HAD AN ARGUMENT WITH MY FATHER.


IT MUST HAVE BEEN SERIOUS.
HE FOUND OUT I WAS... DOING SOMETHING HE DIDN'T APPROVE OF.

FATHERS AND SONS DON'T ALWAYS AGREE ON EVERYTHING. WHAT DIDN'T HE LIKE?

HE FOUND OUT I'M GAY.

≥SNIFF≤ AND, AND THEN HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT ME AS A SON...



I'M SURE HE DIDN'T MEAN IT.
BUT HE DID! HE HATES GAYS... HE, HE SAYS THAT GAYS ARE EVIL, THAT GAYS ARE AGAINST GOD...

LISTEN TO ME.

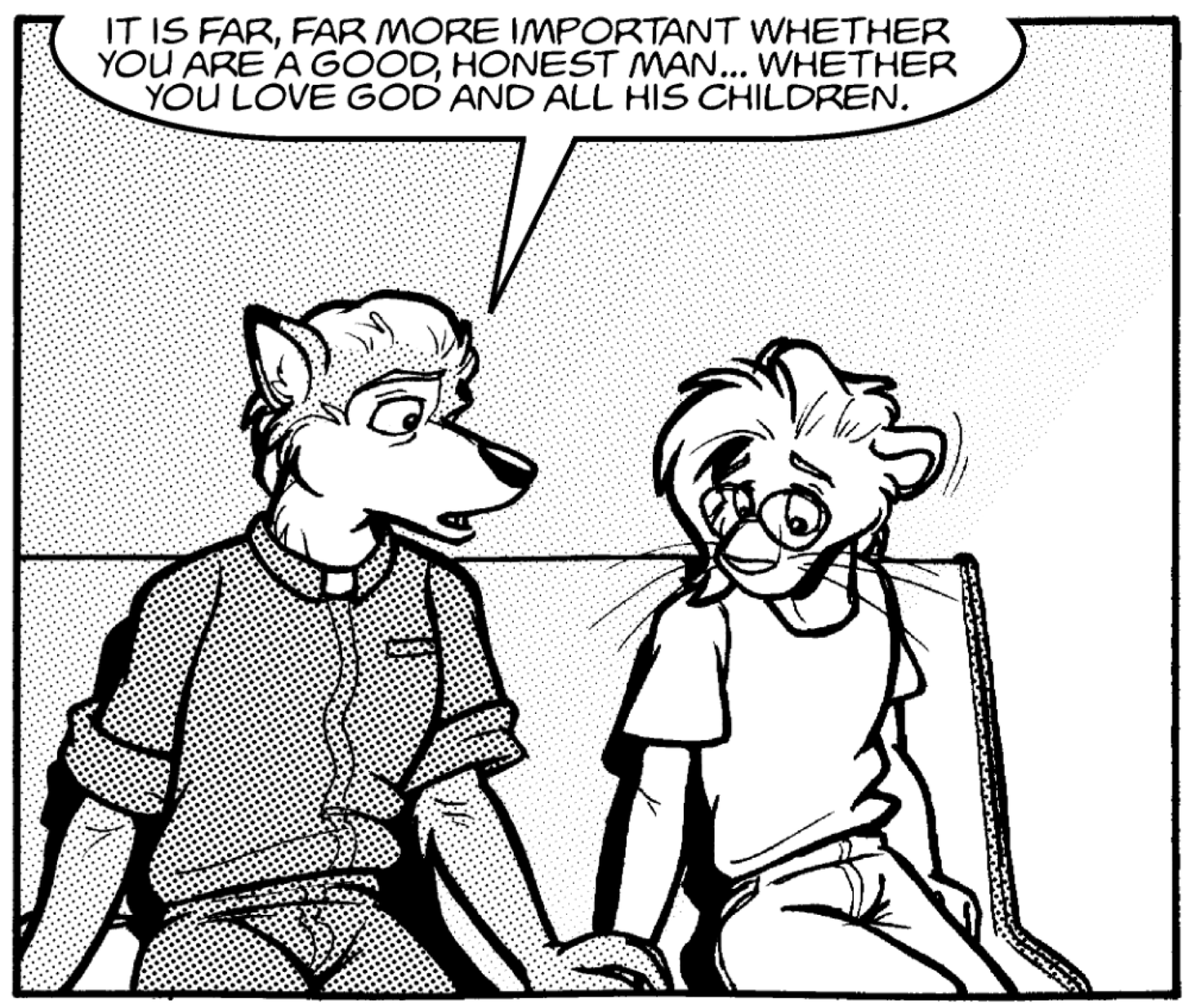
GOD DOESN'T HATE ANYONE. JESUS DOESN'T HATE ANYONE. GOD ONLY WANTS US TO BE HAPPY.
B-BUT, DAD SAID--

YOUR FATHER DOESN'T SPEAK WITH THE VOICE OF GOD.
DOESN'T THE BIBLE SAY THAT--

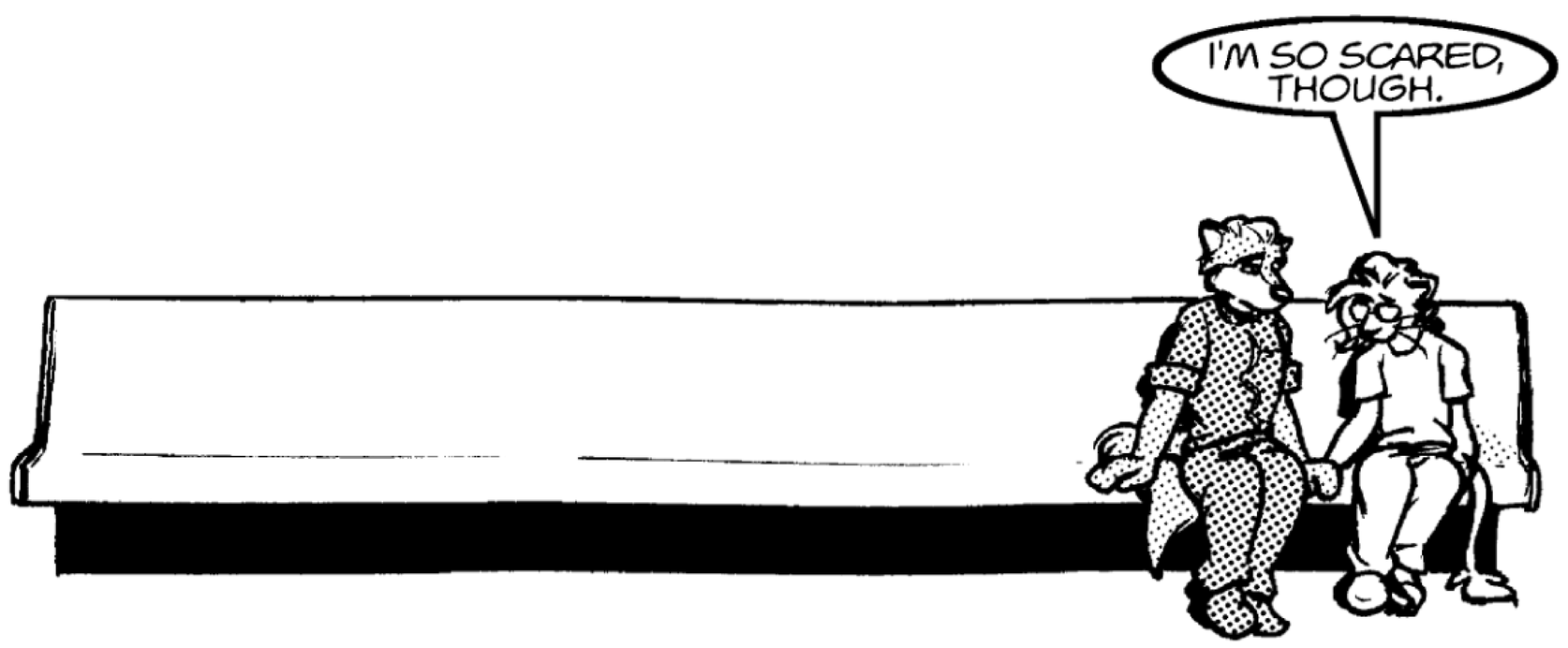
THE BIBLE ISN'T ALWAYS CLEAR ABOUT THESE THINGS. PEOPLE HAVE MANY DIFFERENT BELIEFS AND INTERPRETATIONS ABOUT SUBJECTS LIKE THIS.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK?
SNIFF

I THINK THAT BEING GAY ISN'T THE WAY GOD INTENDED. BUT.


IT IS FAR, FAR MORE IMPORTANT WHETHER YOU ARE A GOOD, HONEST MAN... WHETHER YOU LOVE GOD AND ALL HIS CHILDREN.

IF YOU ARE A GOOD PERSON, BEING GAY ISN'T GOING TO KEEP YOU OUT OF HEAVEN.


I'M SO SCARED, THOUGH.

I LOVE MY FATHER, B-BUT HE HATES ME NOW, AND, AND I YELLED AT MY LOVER 'CAUSE HE GOT MAD AT MY DAD AND WAS GONNA HIT HIM, AND HE WOULDN'T LET ME TALK...

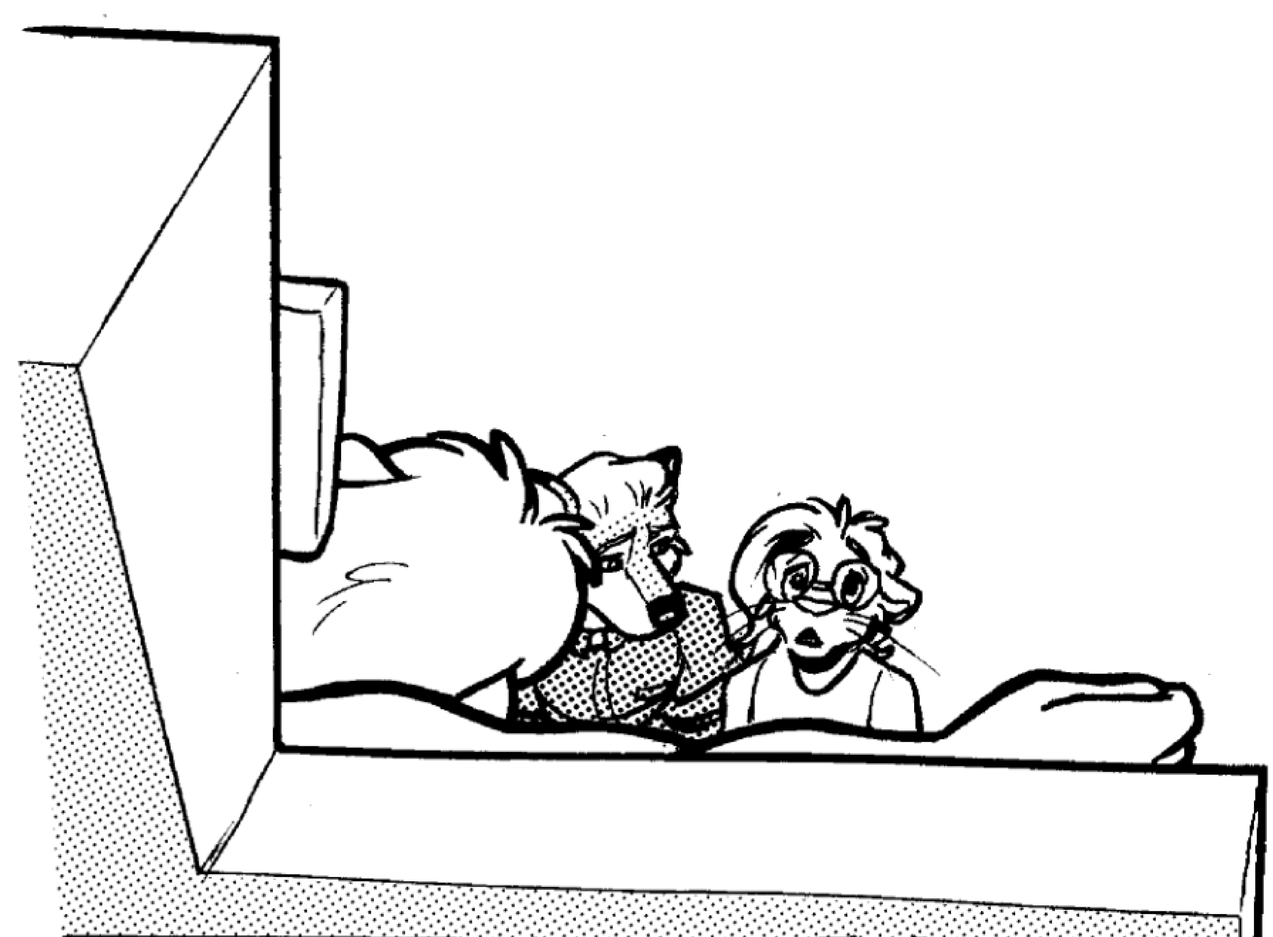
I'VE GOT NOBODY LEFT... I WISH I'D NEVER BEEN BORN.

COME WITH ME.

INRI

YOU'RE NOT ALONE. I KNOW THIS SOUNDS LIKE A CLICHÉ, BUT IT'S TRUE.

LOOK AT HIM. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT JESUS CRIED ON THE CROSS?



INRI

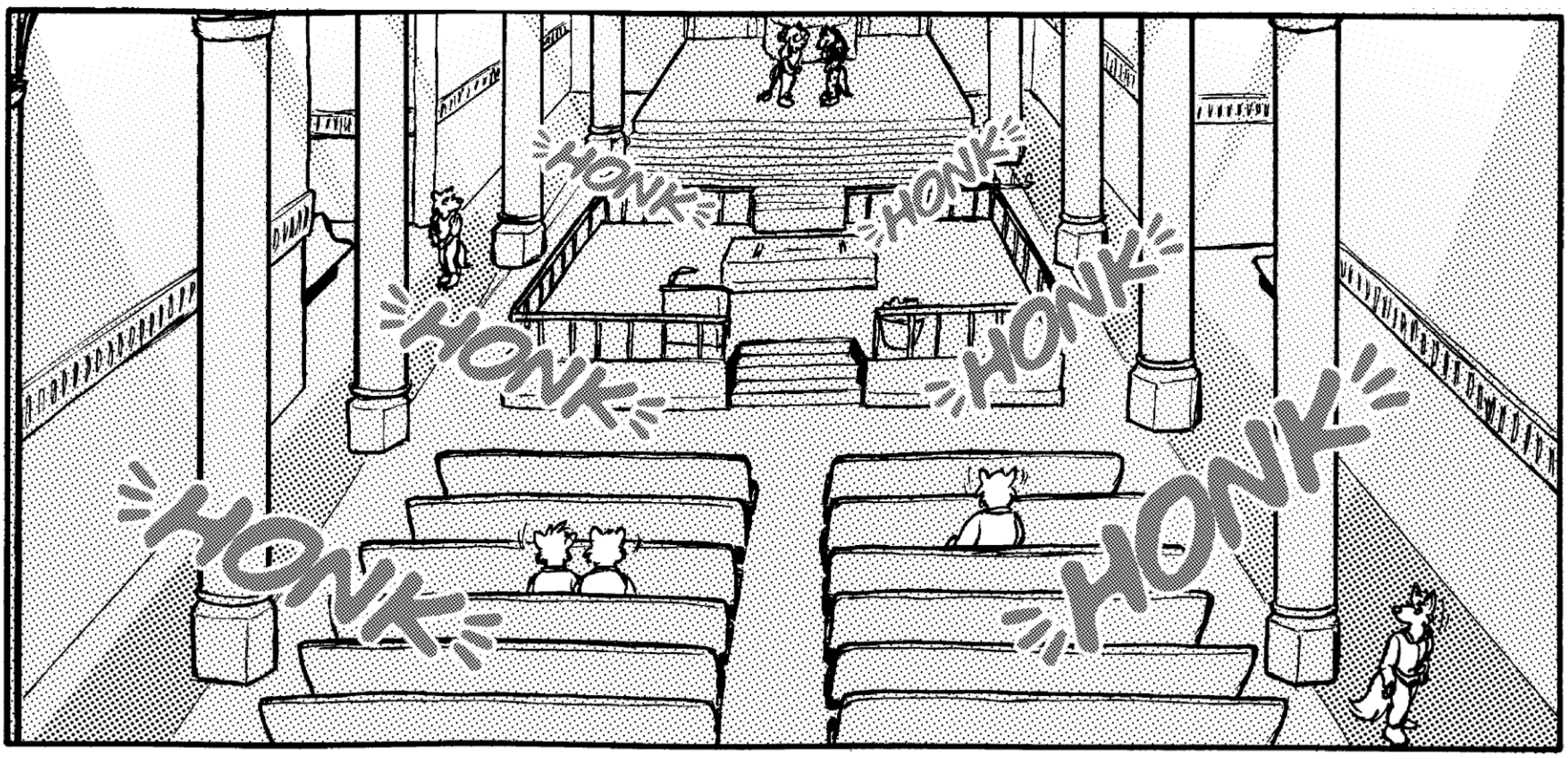
"MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"

BUT JESUS WASN'T ALONE, WAS HE?
NO...
AND YOU'RE NOT ALONE. NOW OR EVER.

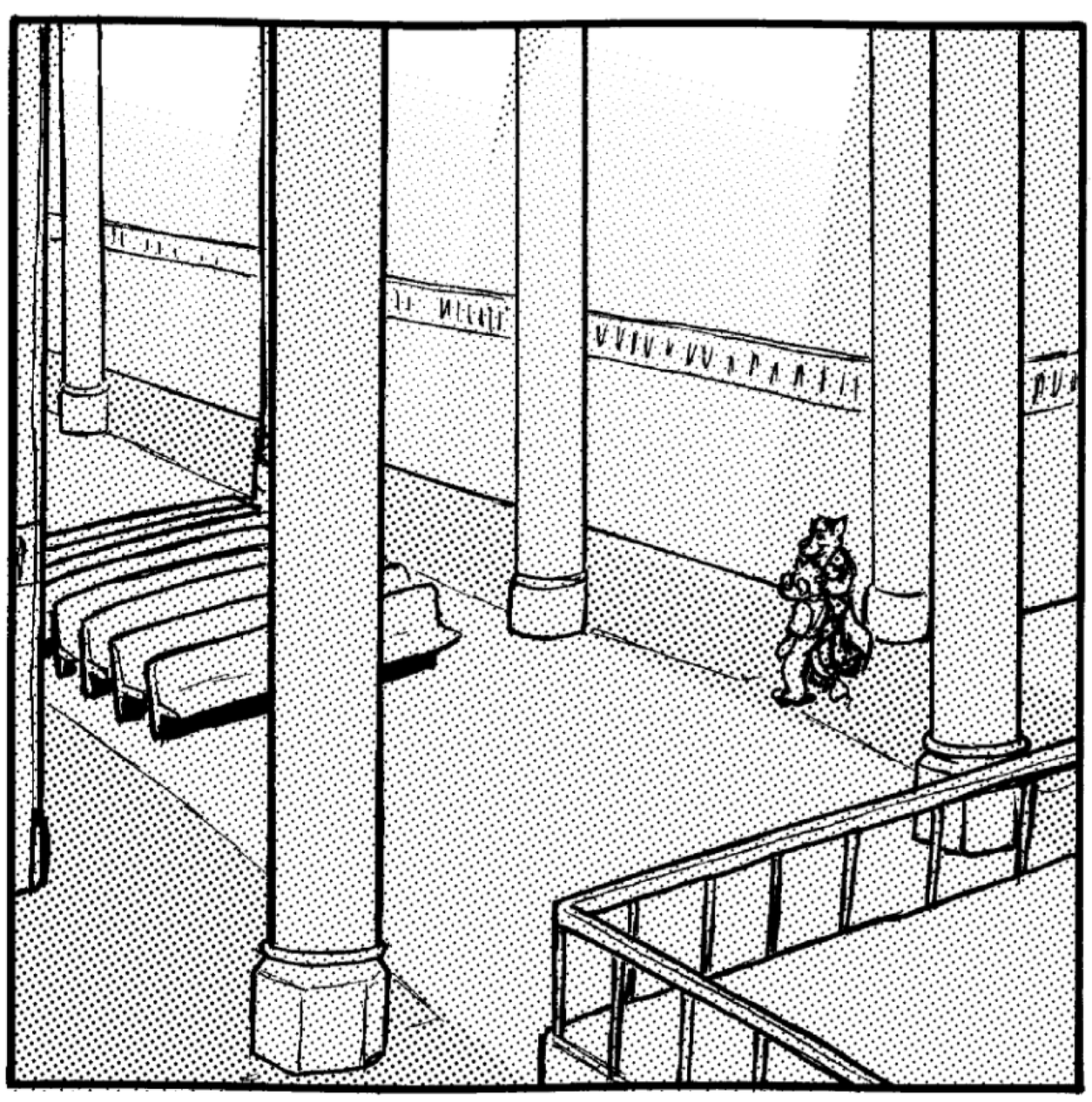
SNIFF

HERE... I ALWAYS CARRY ONE. COMES WITH THE TERRITORY.
THANKS...

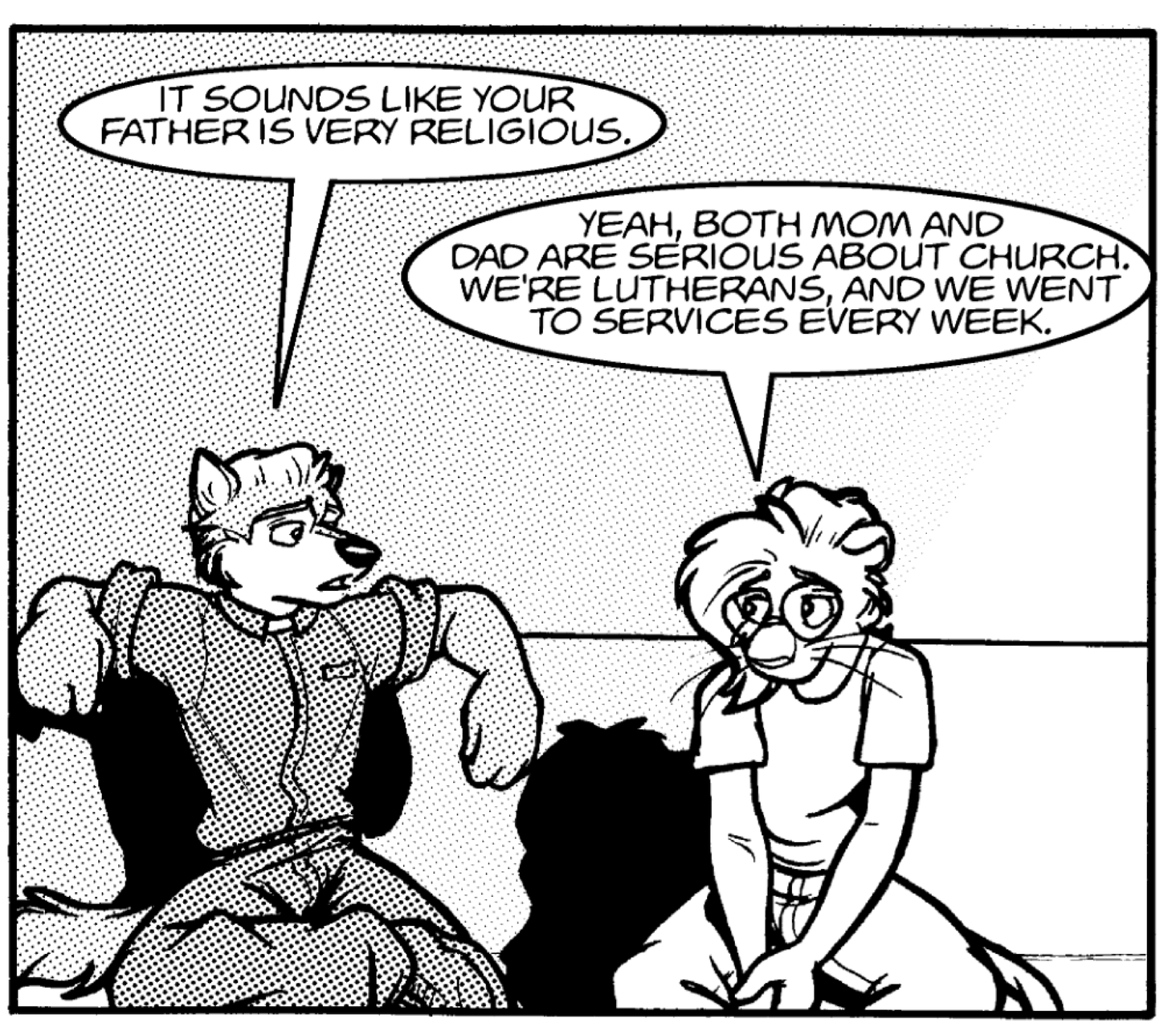
HONK


HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK

GREAT ACOUSTICS, DON'TCHA THINK?
IT'S OKAY. GOD MADE YOUR NOSE, TOO.
I'M SORRY...



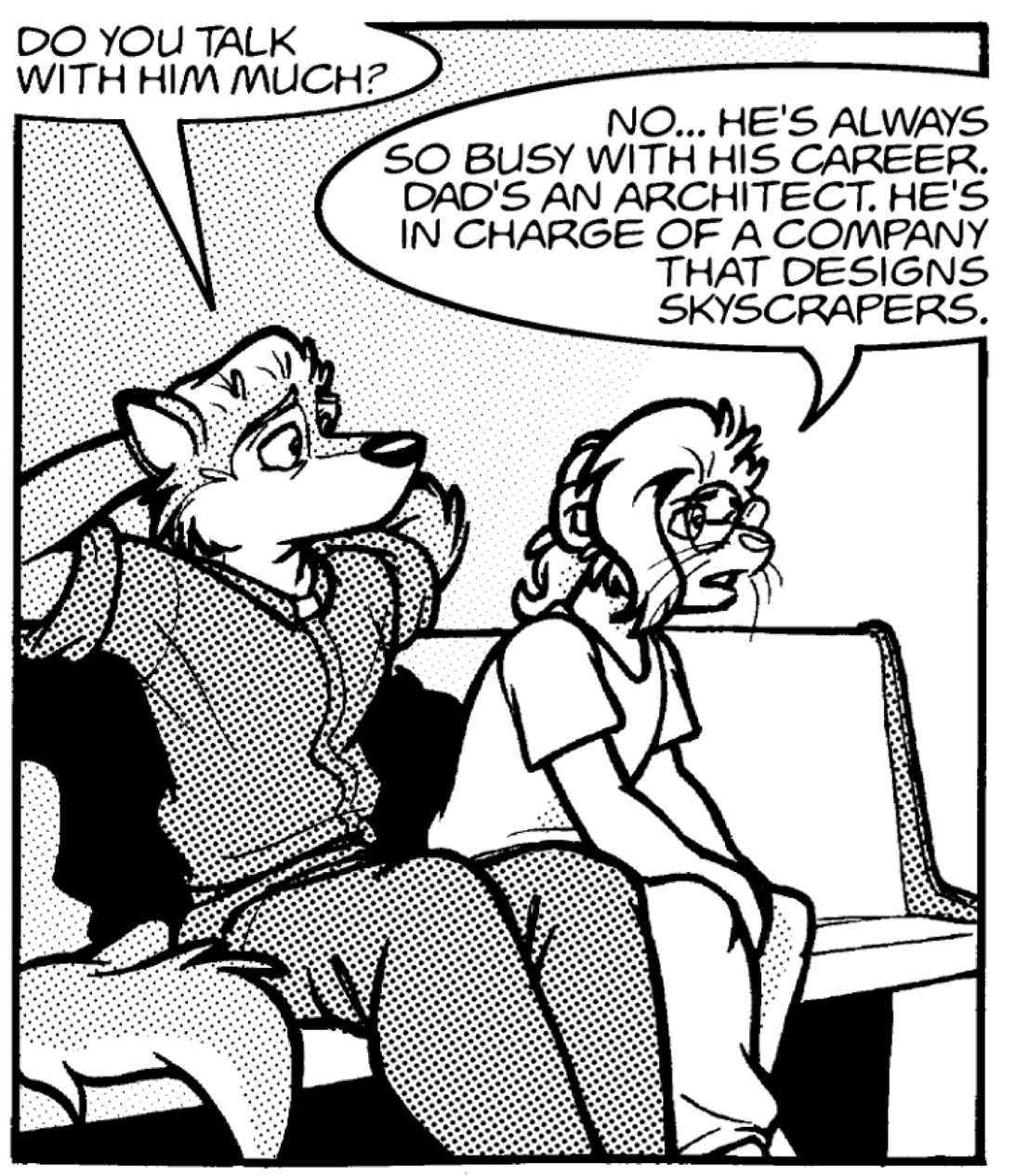
LET'S TALK A BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, AND WHAT HAPPENED.


IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FATHER IS VERY RELIGIOUS.
YEAH, BOTH MOM AND DAD ARE SERIOUS ABOUT CHURCH. WE'RE LUTHERANS, AND WE WENT TO SERVICES EVERY WEEK.

YOU HAVEN'T SAID MUCH ABOUT YOUR MOTHER.
OH, SHE'S A WONDERFUL MOTHER, BUT DAD'S THE ONE WHO RUNS THE FAMILY.

WAS SHE AS UPSET AS YOUR FATHER?
SHE WAS SHOCKED, BUT NOT LIKE MY DAD...

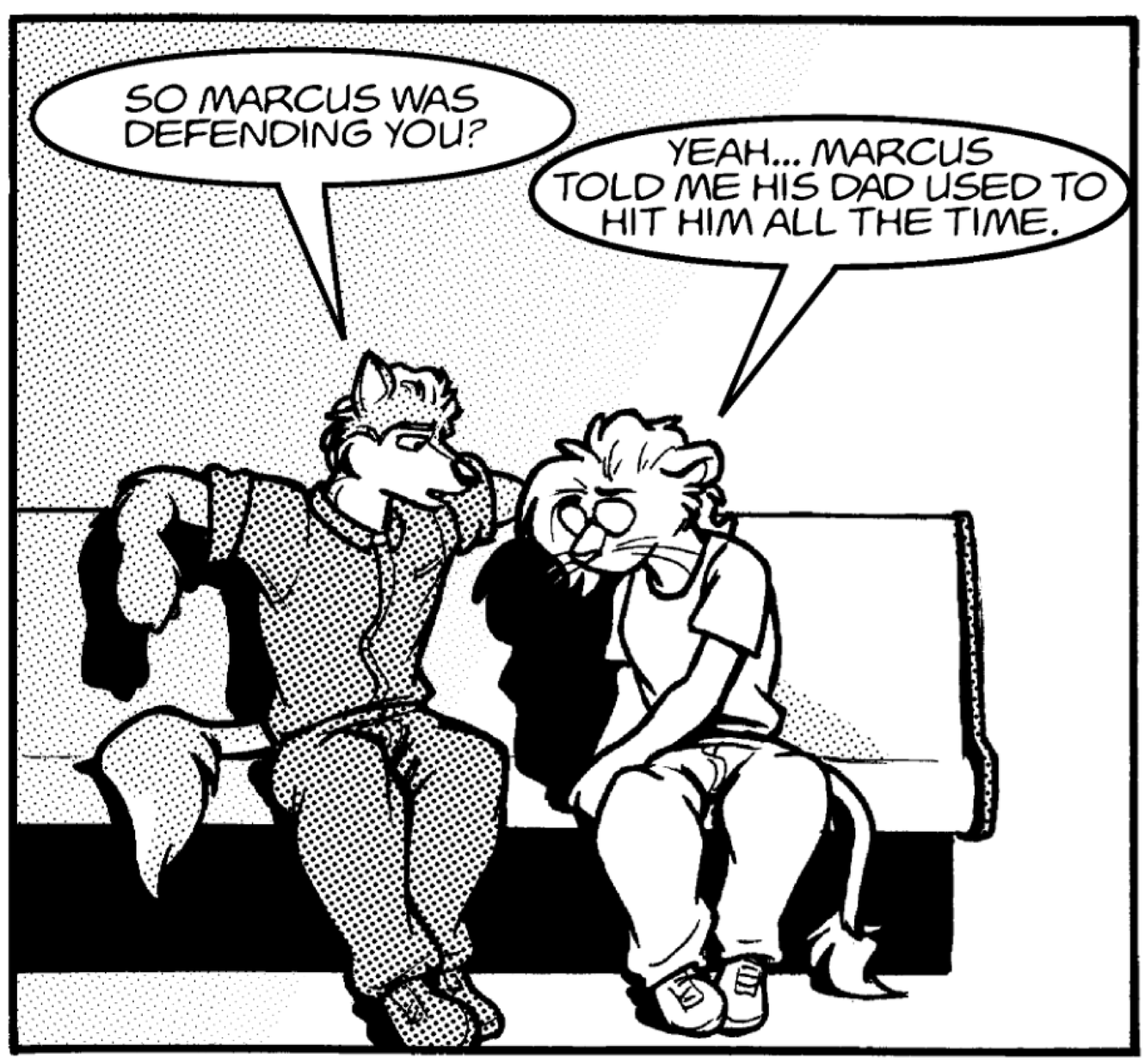
I TAKE IT YOUR FATHER IS STRICTER. HE'S THE DISCIPLINARIAN OF THE FAMILY?
YEAH... HE DOESN'T TAKE ANY BACK-TALK. I MEAN, HE DOESN'T HIT US OR ANYTHING, BUT YOU OBEY HIM.


DO YOU TALK WITH HIM MUCH?
NO... HE'S ALWAYS SO BUSY WITH HIS CAREER. DAD'S AN ARCHITECT. HE'S IN CHARGE OF A COMPANY THAT DESIGNS SKYSCRAPERS.

I SEE. IN THAT KIND OF WORK, YOU CAN'T MAKE MISTAKES.
AND YOU CAN'T HAVE SURPRISES.
YEAH...

YOUR FATHER MUST HAVE BEEN VERY SURPRISED.
I SUPPOSE.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND?
I KNOW MARCUS LOVES ME! HE SAVED ME FROM A BEATING WHEN SOME FOOTBALL PLAYERS ATTACKED ME... AND HE'S BEEN THERE WHENEVER I NEEDED HIM.

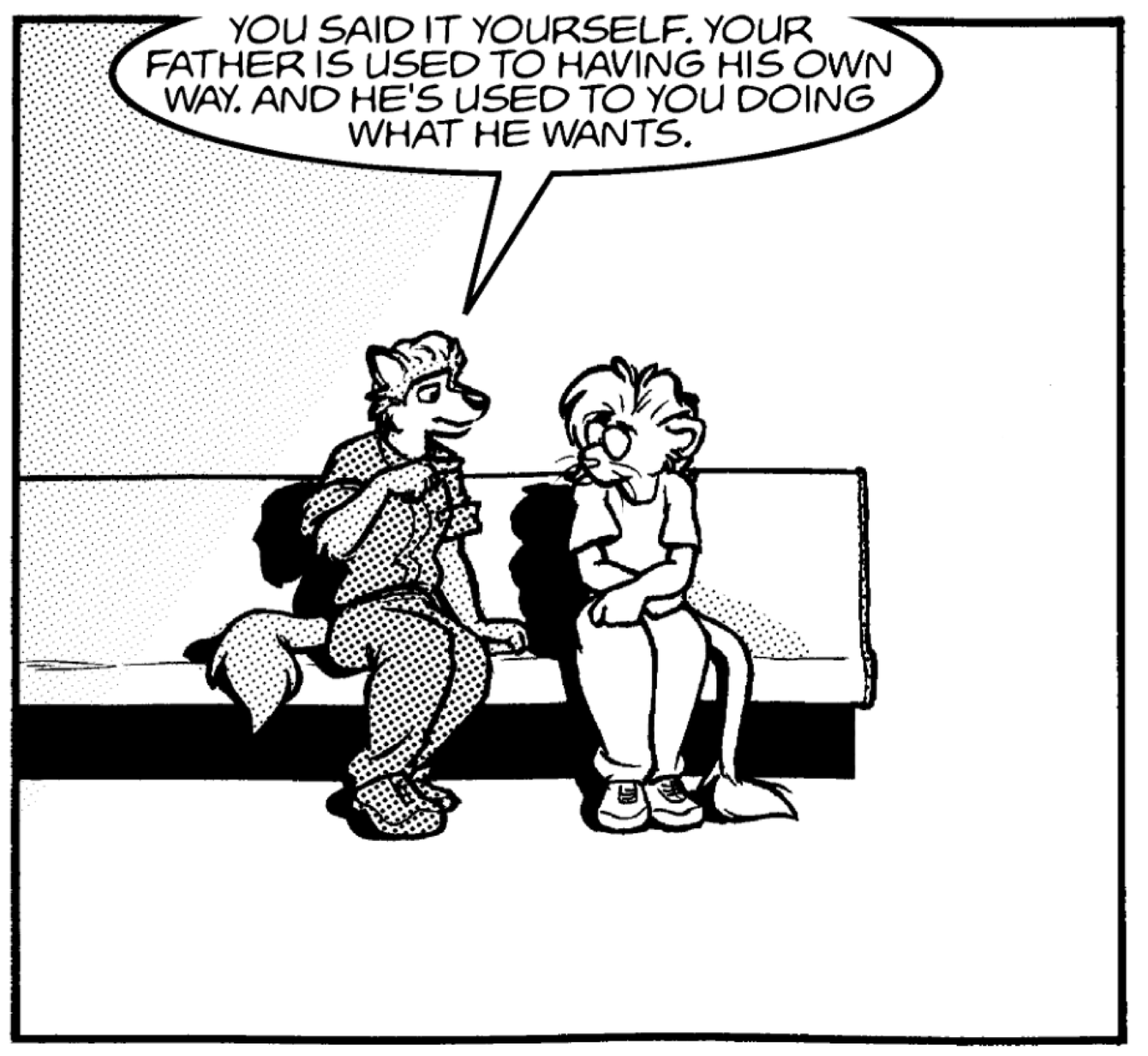

SO MARCUS WAS DEFENDING YOU?
YEAH... MARCUS TOLD ME HIS DAD USED TO HIT HIM ALL THE TIME.

THAT'S SAD. I SUPPOSE MARCUS SAW GHOSTS OF HIS OWN FATHER WHEN THIS ARGUMENT STARTED.
I GUESS MY FATHER THOUGHT MARCUS WAS A RIVAL OR SOMETHING.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MARCUS IS THINKING? RIGHT NOW, AT THIS MOMENT?
I... I GUESS HE'S SCARED FOR ME.
AND YOUR FATHER?
HE'S PROBABLY SCARED, TOO.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SOMEONE WHO HATES HIS SON.

THIS IS JUST A GUESS, BUT I'D SAY THE REAL ISSUE ISN'T NECESSARILY THAT YOU'RE GAY.
THEN WHAT..?


YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. YOUR FATHER IS USED TO HAVING HIS OWN WAY. AND HE'S USED TO YOU DOING WHAT HE WANTS.

I THINK THAT HIS SON GREW UP WHILE HE WASN'T LOOKING.

THE REAL PROBLEM HERE ISN'T THAT YOU'RE GAY. THE PROBLEM IS THE RIFT BETWEEN FATHER AND SON. WE HAVE TO REPAIR THAT.
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FATHER RESPECTS THE CHURCH...
I'D LIKE TO GET YOU AND YOUR FATHER TOGETHER. I'LL BE A MEDIATOR--A REFEREE.
DO YOU THINK THAT'D WORK?

I'M A MAN OF THE CLOTH. THAT GIVES ME AN ADVANTAGE WITH YOUR FATHER.

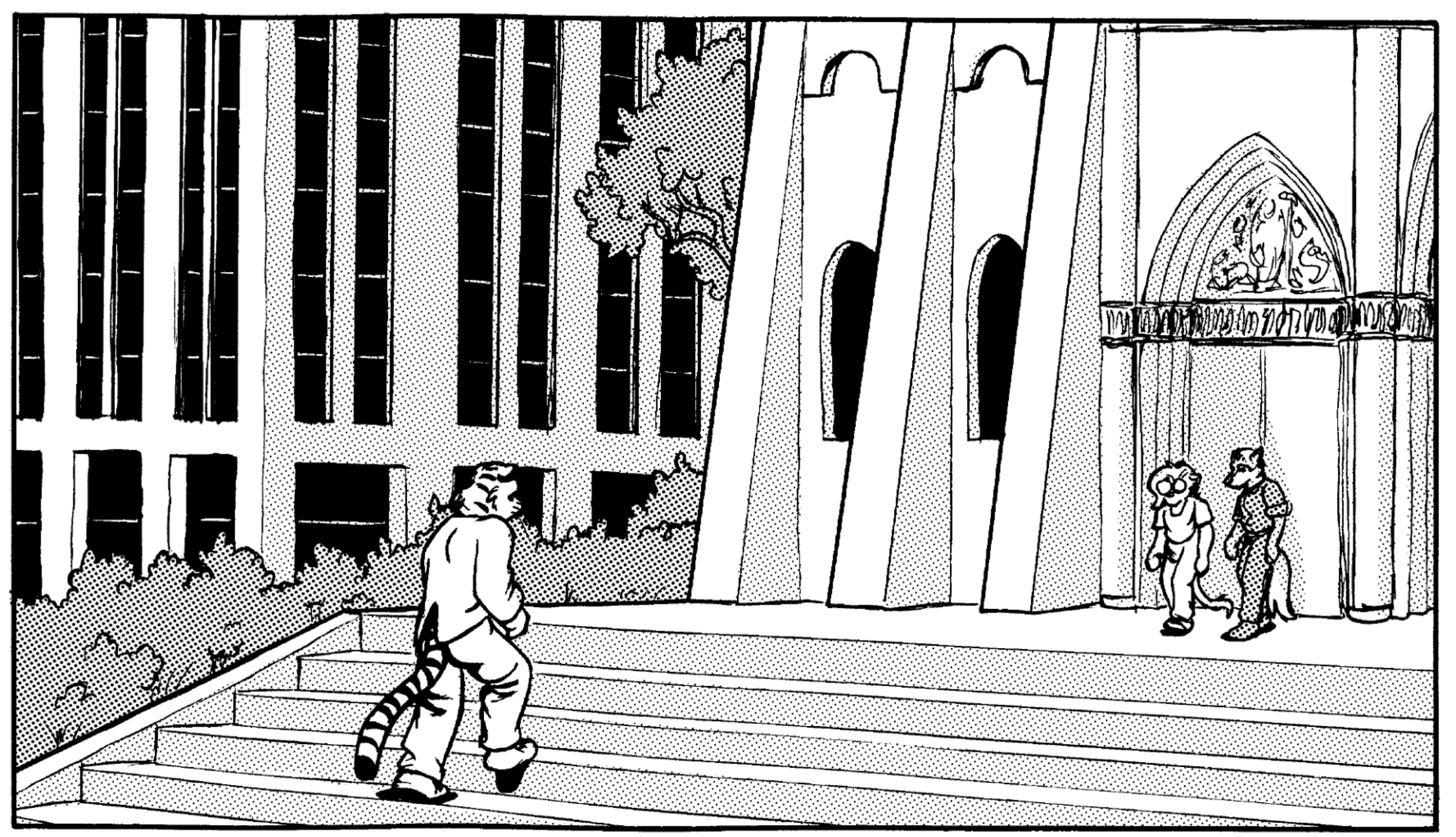
ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR...
AND IT'LL BE NICE TO SEE DAD RESPECTING SOMEONE ELSE FOR A CHANGE.

WRITE DOWN YOUR ADDRESS AND PHONE... AND YOUR FATHER'S PHONE TOO. I'LL ARRANGE THINGS.

WE'VE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING, THOUGH...
WHAT?

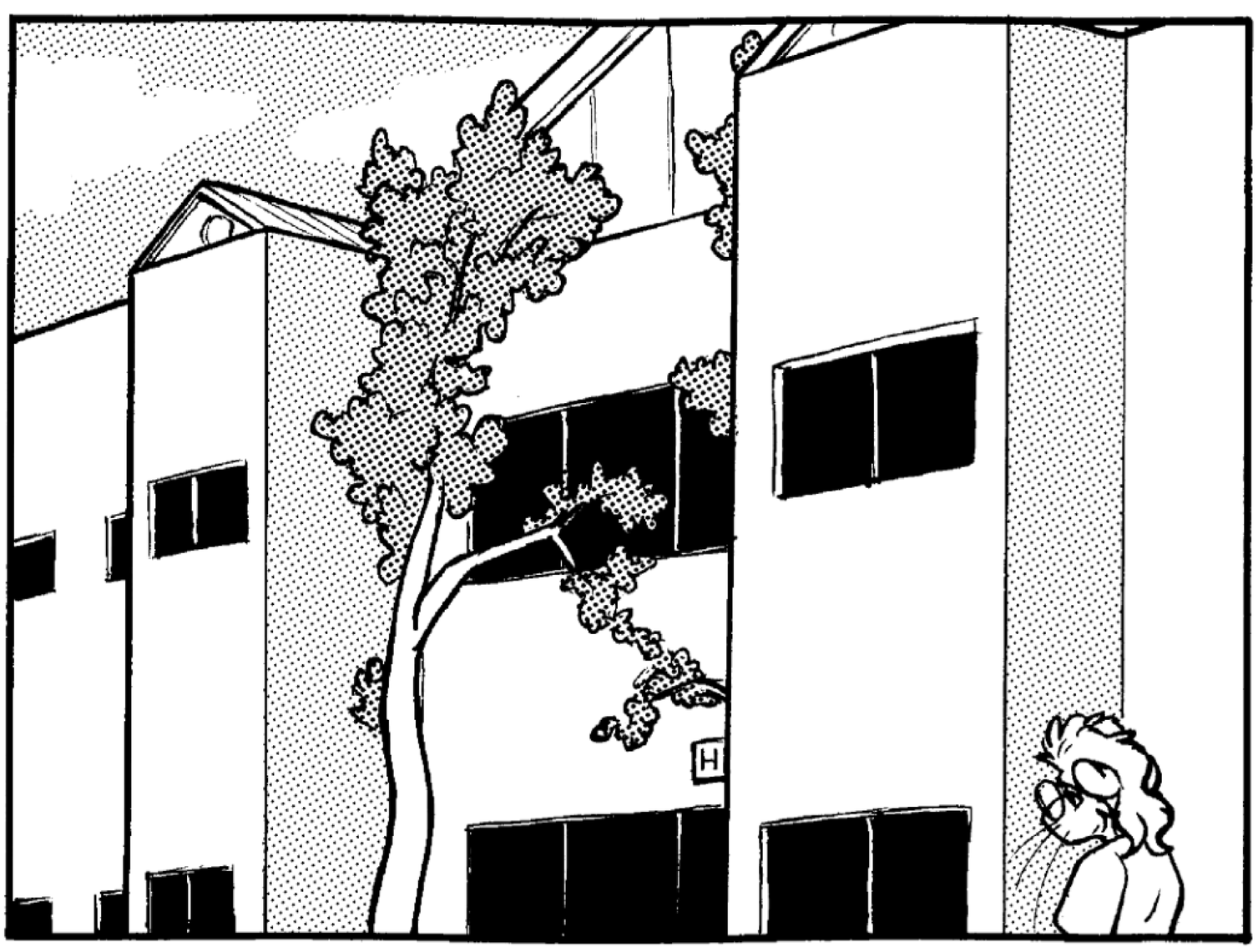
YOUR LOVER. I'LL BET HE'S HURTING JUST AS MUCH AS YOU ARE.
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANYONE TO TURN TO...

GO TO HIM. HE NEEDS YOU.



THANK YOU SO MUCH... I FEEL A LOT BETTER.
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK.

SCOOT, SCOOT!
YESSIR!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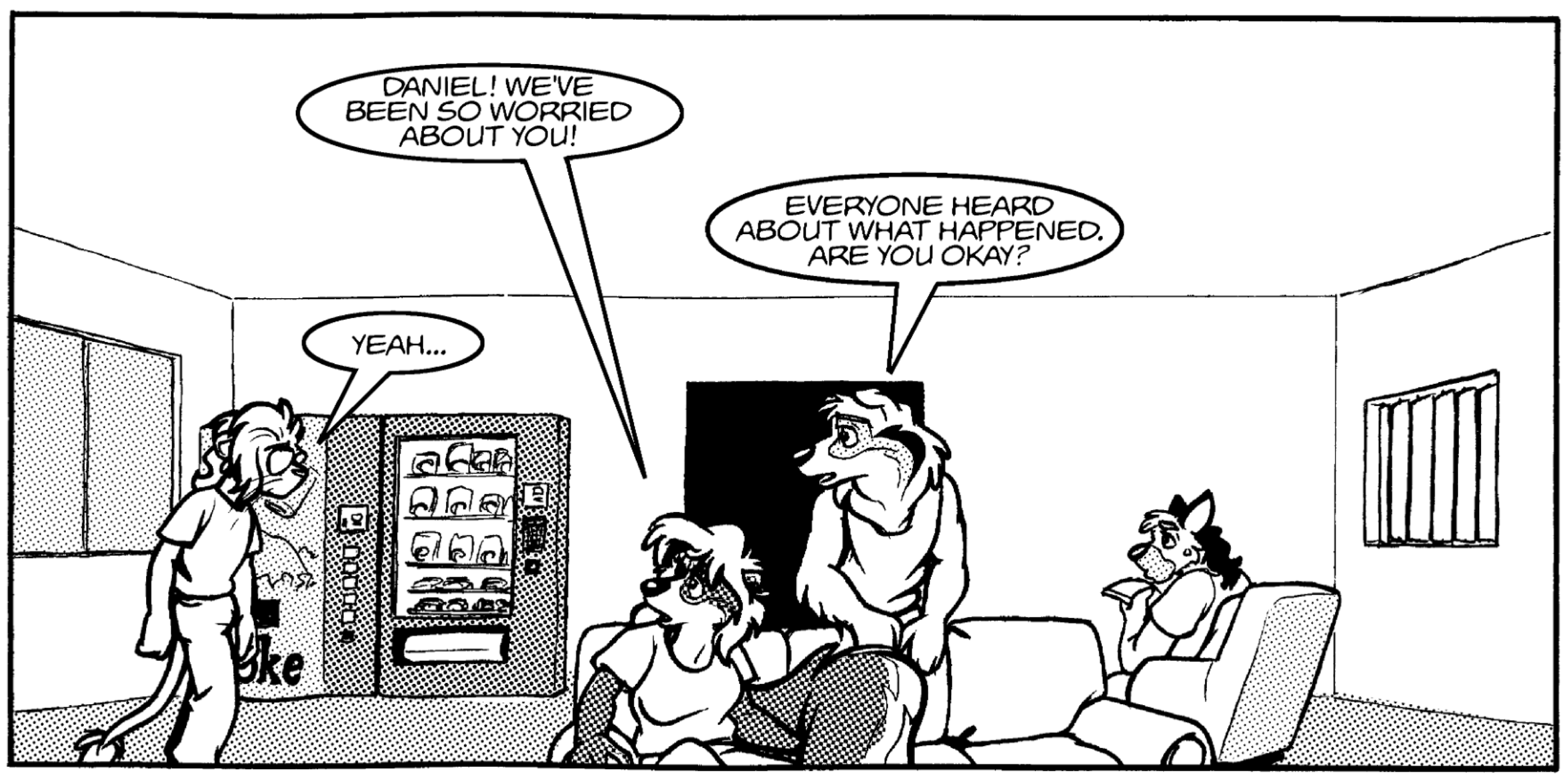
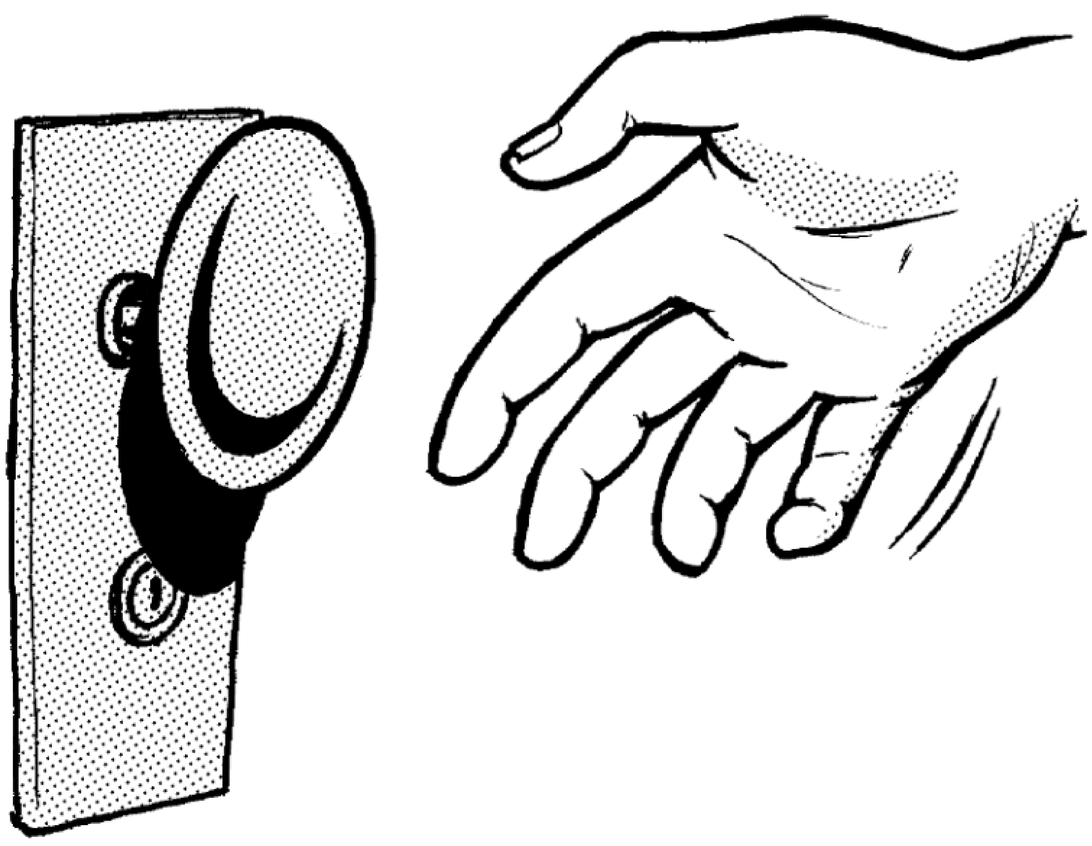
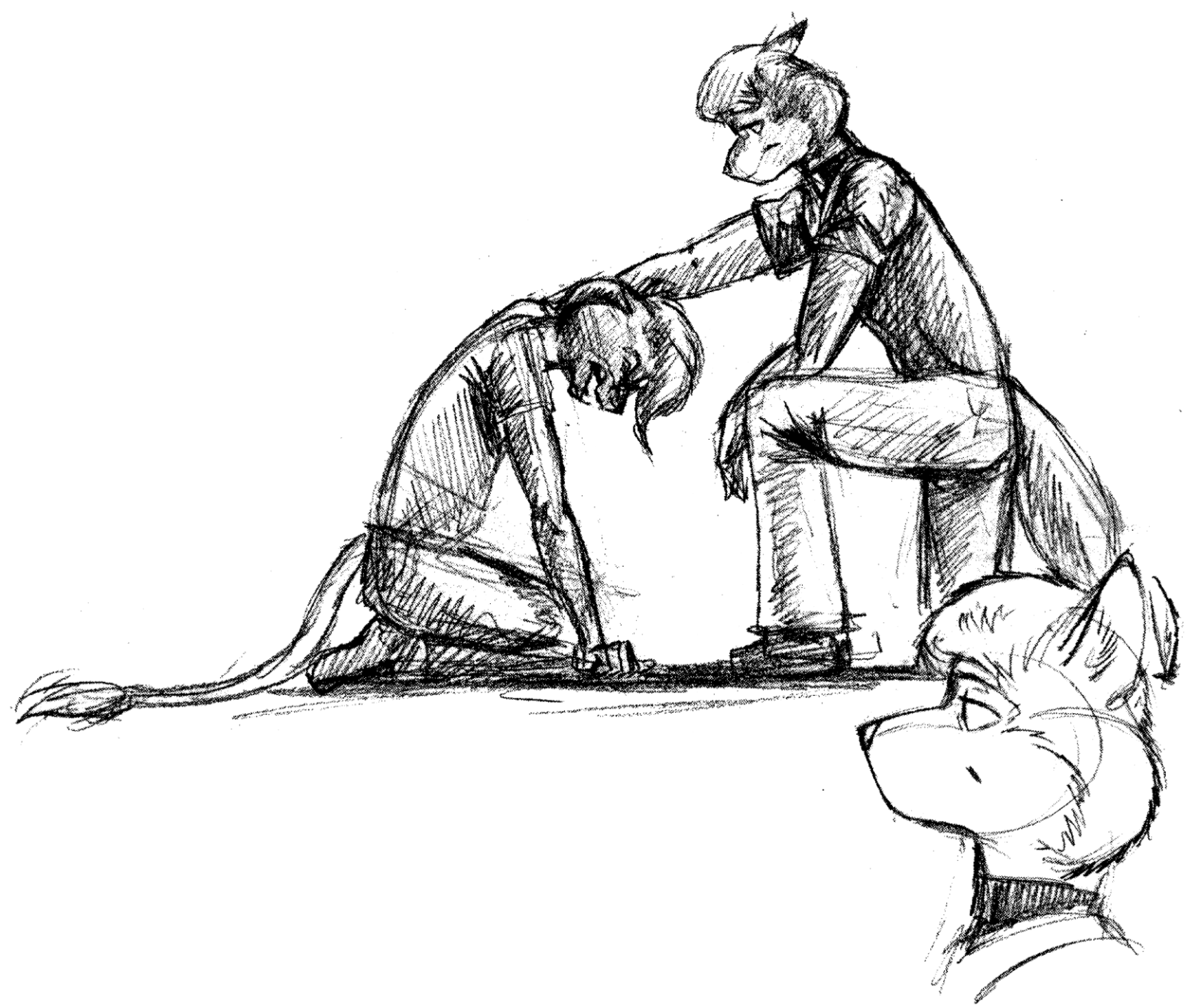




TO BE CONTINUED...

Baron has a gift for capturing the essential "humantiy" of the characters he draws. This sketch was in preparation for the issue 6 cover, in which Daniel finds comfort in his faith when estranged from both Marcus and his father.



We could not possibly have done better ourselves.

NIGEL
2000 FRANK GEMBECK JR.

LETTERS FROM HOME

Dear Mom,

How are you doing? I know things have been rough lately for you, and I am sorry that this whole situation came up. I can only imagine what you are going through, but I know it can't be easy.

I'm doing okay. The hurt doesn't go away or get any easier, but I am living with it, and will survive it. My friends are wonderful, and have been very supportive. I don't think I could have endured the pain without them.

Please tell Stephanie I'm all right. I'm sure that word has gotten around, and I'm also sure Michael isn't exactly on my side. I wish it were different, but he and I never got along.

If Dad will listen, please let him know I still love him, though I am not sure how he feels about me. I wish I knew what it was like to know he was proud of me.

I love you, Mom. No matter what happens, that will never change.

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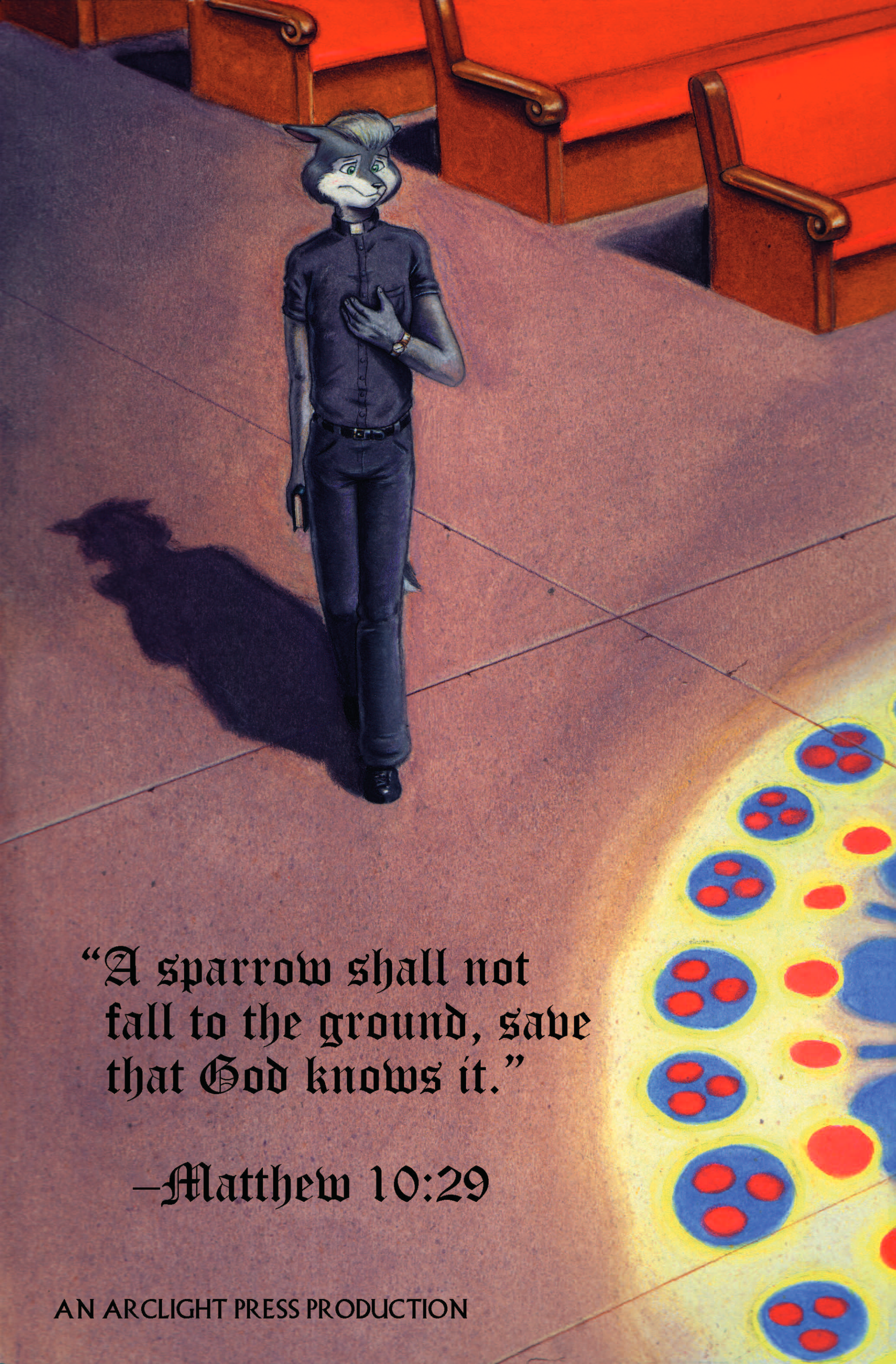

"A sparrow shall not fall to the ground, save that God knows it."

—Matthew 10:29

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